



## WEEK THREE – MARCH 2025 – PRETEEN

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

**Key Question:** *How has someone helped you 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.

**Key Question: How has someone helped you solve problems?** Some problems are just too big to solve alone. When you're growing up and learning how to tie your shoe, you need help. Same for when you're first learning math, trying something new, or helping at a clothing drive. As preteens answer this question, we hope they will reflect on the people who have helped them and why it was a help to them. Then they can go and be a help to someone else as well.

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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:** Game Room, Card Games + Art Room

**What You Do:**

- *PRE-CONNECTION TIME*
  - Before kids arrive, take some time to pray for your kids and for the time you'll spend together. Take a couple of minutes to be silent and still and allow Jesus to speak to you and give you vision for how to best lead your kids today.
- *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.
  - Interact with preteens in their respective spaces (Game Room/Art Room/Board Games, etc.)
  - Ask questions in order to connect with + get to know your few as you partake in activities alongside them
- *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 working as a group*

**What You Need:** Prepared “Character Match” Activity Page, tape

### What You Do:

- Let the kids know that you will assign each kid a character from a TV show or movie.
- Explain the game:
  - Each character is part of a duo, and the kids must work together to help everyone in the group pair up with their duo correctly.
- Invite kids to stand in a line with their backs facing you.
- Use tape to attach a card from the “Character Match” Activity Page to each kid’s back.
- Make sure each character has a match.
  - If there’s an uneven number of kids, grab a card and play along to make it even!
- On your “Go,” direct the kids to walk around and look at the cards on other kids’ backs.
- Encourage kids to give hints to help others figure out their characters and find their match, but they cannot reveal the exact name.
- Play until all matches are found.

### What You Say:

“Great job, everyone! You all worked together to solve the challenge of finding your matches. *[Transition]* Today, we’re going to hear about a different character—not from TV or movies, but someone who actually lived a long time ago and worked with people to solve a big problem! Come with me!”

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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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### **Bible Story Extension**

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

*Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Bible Story Trivia” Activity Page, prepared bags

#### **What You Do:**

- Split your group into two teams and have each team gather with their group.
- Display the prepared bags filled with building supplies for the groups to see.
- Explain the Bible Story trivia game:
  - Take turns asking each team questions from the “Bible Story Trivia” Activity Page.
  - As each team answers questions correctly, they’ll earn supplies to help their team build something together.
  - If a team answers correctly, hand them one of the supplies from their team’s bag.
  - If they answer incorrectly, give the opposing team a chance to answer the question.
  - If that team gets it right, they receive a supply from the first team’s bag and another turn.
- Keep playing until all the trivia questions have been asked.
- Once all the questions are answered, give each team a few minutes to work together using their supplies to build the biggest building they can.

- After both teams finish, highlight the uniqueness of each building and how teamwork helped them build it.
- Explain that cooperation is about working together to do more than you can do alone.
- Share with the kids that we can do amazing things when we work together!

### **Verses to Take With You**

#### **[Hear From God | Memory Verse Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** “Cooperation Riddle” Activity Page, “Cooperation Riddle Answer Key” Activity Page, pens or pencils, Bibles

#### **What You Do:**

- Split your group into two teams and instruct each team to gather with their group.
- Hand each team a “Cooperation Riddle” Activity Page, a pen or pencil, and a Bible.
- Explain to the kids that they will work together to solve a riddle.
- Direct kids to read the first question, using the Bible to look up the verse referenced.
- After each group locates the verse, encourage them to read it aloud in their groups.
- Then, direct them to fill in the blank for that question on the activity page.
- Explain to the kids that the final part of the page contains a riddle.
  - They need to use the letters they’ve filled in to solve the riddle.
- Once a team solves the riddle, direct them to stand up together without shouting out the answer.
- Once both teams are standing, ask them to shout out the answer at the same time.
  - (Answer: “TEAMWORK”)

- *NOTE: Each line of the poem begins with the letters that spell “TEAMWORK.”*
- Gather together and read the questions from the activity page, allowing the kids to answer:
  - How many are better than one? *Two*
  - How can we help each other? *Carry each other’s heavy loads.*
  - If someone isn’t listening to you when you try to make things right, what should you do? *Bring someone else with you.*
  - How can we agree with one another? *Be one in spirit.*
- Tell the kids they showed excellent cooperation as they worked to solve the riddle.
- Explain to kids that God’s Word reminds us that we need each other for so many reasons!