



WEEK FIVE – NOVEMBER 2025 – PRETEEN

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

Conversation Starter: *What do you need help with?*

Memory Verse: *“Those who trust in the Lord will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.”- Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)*

Insight: *Identity Based on God’s Image – I am created in the image of God and have unique potential and worth*

Application: *Confidence – Living like you believe God is with you*

Series Overview: God chose a people and promised through them to bless the whole world. And God fulfilled that promise by sending Jesus to rescue and redeem us. When we begin to understand this story and allow it to inform everything in our lives, we can live from a place of quiet confidence, knowing God is always with us and is able to work every single thing we face into a beautiful pattern for our good. This month, we’re exploring some larger-than-life characters from God’s story who lived during the decline of Israel and Judah and the following exile. These individuals chose to—or failed to—place the full weight of their lives on trust in God. Through stories of Elijah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah we see how making choices from a foundation of trust changes everything about the way you live.

8:45 - 9:05 | 10:45 – 11:05 | 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, pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Recall an age-appropriate story about a time God helped you finish something you started, even when it was hard. Maybe you wanted to give up, but pushed through because you knew God was with you. Ask God to help preteens grow in perseverance and faith in Jesus. Pray they'll understand that the work God has for them matters. Ask God to help the kids learn how to go through all of life with Him so they will do all things together with Him!**
- *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 is one skill or talent that someone taught you this year, and why are you thankful they took the time to teach you?*
 - *Think of a small, helpful thing you do every day that you are thankful you can do. (Like walking to the bus, packing your lunch, or remembering to pray.)*

- *When you are having a tough day, what's the best thing a friend or leader can say to you?*
- *Would you rather be famous for winning a million dollars or for doing something amazing that helps the whole world?*
- *If you had to choose: never use a screen again or never eat your favorite food again? Why?*
- *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

9:05 - 9:20 | 11:05 – 11:20 | OPENING SMALL GROUP

OPENING ACTIVITY

What You Need: “Puzzle Cards” Activity Page; Timer; Pencils

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into three groups.
- Explain how to play:
 - “Your group will get a set of cards with a word on them. You’ll have 30 seconds to put together a fun sentence with the letters in each word.”
 - For example, if the card says “LAKE” the group might write, “Little artists kept eating.”
 - Groups can write their sentences on the back of the cards.
- For each round, one at a time, call out one of the six words.
- Give the kids 30 seconds to write their silly sentence.

- When the time is up, call out the word and instruct each group to share their silly sentence for that word.
- The words are:
 - BUILD
 - PRAY
 - WORK
 - GATES
 - WALL
 - TEAM
- Reset the 30-second timer for each round.
- Gather the kids to discuss.

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Let the kids call out their answers each round instead of writing them on the cards.

What You Say:

“Awesome teamwork, friends! You know, every word you just created a silly sentence for has something to do with **today’s true story from the Bible. Build, pray, work, gates, wall, team? A man named Nehemiah faced tough challenges, but he asked God for help, worked with others, and never gave up hope. Let’s go discover how God helped Nehemiah, and how He can help you do big things too!**”

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

We wrap up with Nehemiah, who served as an advisor to King Artaxerxes. But when he received news that the walls of Jerusalem were broken down, Nehemiah’s heart broke, too. He boldly asked the king for permission to return to his homeland and rebuild. Once Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he discovered the job was bigger than he imagined. But with confidence that God would be with them, Nehemiah rallied the people for an epic building project.

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

TAKE A SNAPSHOT

[Live for God | Application Activity]

What You Need: Sticky notes; pencils

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in a circle.
- Give every kid at least two sticky notes and a pencil.
- Say, “Nehemiah noticed God’s people were feeling hopeless. He was confident in the assignment God gave him!”
- Ask: “What things in our world feel broken?”
 - *Kids might say bullying, people without food, lying, loneliness, or the pressure to be perfect.*
- Invite the kids to write or draw one idea per sticky note.
- Ask: “How might God use you to help rebuild what’s broken?”
 - *Kids might say starting a kindness club, helping a neighbor, or praying for someone.*
- Collect the sticky notes and set them aside for the Prayer Activity.
- Explain: “Nehemiah heard of something that was broken and didn’t just ignore it. He trusted God and did something BIG! He inspired others to help too.”
- Ask: What’s something you want to help rebuild in our world?
 - Give the kids some examples of big things God might ask them to do, like work with their family to have a garage sale to raise money for a cause.
- Encourage the kids to think about the things they’re passionate about. It’s likely that God has placed that thing on their heart to help others!
- Explain that the job in front of you might seem big—so was building a wall for Nehemiah. But Nehemiah asked God for everything he needed every step

of the way, and God helped him. You can do the same thing! God loves to help you with the big thing that's on your heart!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

[Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

What You Need: N/A

What You Do:

- What do you need help with?
- Nehemiah went to God for everything he needed. What can you do to remind yourself that you can ask God for everything?
- How does knowing God goes with you through everything give you more confidence?
- What can you do to remind yourself that God is always with you?
- Who did Nehemiah go to for help first—God or people? Why do you think that matters?
- Nehemiah didn't rebuild the wall alone. He needed help. God helped him through people. Who are the people God has put in your life to help you with big things?

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Be sensitive to kids who may need extra time to process their thoughts and respond. Be patient and create a safe space where everyone has a chance to share when they're ready.
- Frequently check for understanding during discussion by asking questions like, "Can someone share in their own words what we're talking about?"

PRAYER TIME

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

What You Need: Sticky notes from Take a Snapshot (Application Activity)

What You Do:

- Instruct the kids to join you in a seated circle.
- Set the sticky notes from earlier in the center of the circle.
- Invite the kids to silently pick one note that stands out to them (not their own).
- Direct the kids to read it and hold it as the group prays together.
- Close in prayer together, thanking God for seeing every need, every big thing, and every broken thing! Thank God for giving the kids strength to do big things this week and always!