Bible Focus: I am thankful for people who help me.

Nehemiah Builds a Wall • Nehemiah 1-6

Memory Verse: "Always give thanks to God." Ephesians 5:20, NCV

Key Question: Who are you thankful for?

Bottom Line: I am thankful for people who help me.

Basic Truth: God made me.

Social (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Wall

10:15

Tools

Bible (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

• Bible presentation in class

Groups (9:25, 10:40, 11:55)

9:00 & 11:30

Toolbox

10:15

Four Corners

Playground/Centers (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

• If the weather allows, travel to the playground for 10 minutes of playtime outside.

Snack (9:52, 11:07, 12:22)

• Offer snack to the children, indoors

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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Social (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

Let one teacher lead children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

9:00 & 11:30

Wall

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Building blocks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the building blocks in the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to work together to build a wall with the building blocks. Be sure each child has a turn to help build the wall.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We are going to hear a Bible Truth about a happy helper who needed help to build a wall."

During the Activity: "Let's help each other use the building blocks to build a wall." (Point and do activity.)

After the Activity: "Great job! I love that you are all happy helpers! We are going to hear a really cool Bible Truth about a happy helper who needed his friends to help him. I am so excited for our Bible Truth today!"

Transition: Move to Bible time by asking the children to hold hands with their friends to help them walk to the Bible Time area.

10:15

Tools

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Play toolboxes with tools

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the toolboxes in the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to play with the toolbox and tools to pretend to build something. Be sure each child has a turn to play with the tools.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's build something!"

During the Activity: "We are going to use the tools in the toolbox to pretend to build something together. I am so excited!"

After the Activity: "Great job! Building is so much fun. We are going to hear a Bible Truth today about someone who built something too. As a matter of fact, it is time for us to go hear our Bible Truth now!"

Transition: Move to Bible time by chanting this month's Bottom Line, "I am thankful for people who help me," as you walk to the Bible Time area.

Bible Focus: I am thankful for people who help me.

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Bible (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

LEADER: "Good morning, everyone. Are you ready to be happy helpers and help me sing today? I love singing with you. But before we start singing, I have one question for you: **Who are you thankful for?** [Bottom Line] I am thankful for people who help me. Yes! Let's sing!

(Lead children in singing "Thankful.")

"Wow! You are doing great with this song. It's so fun to sing together with you. Who are you thankful for? [Bottom Line] I am thankful for people who help me."

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth and prayer experience.

What You Need: A Bible and wooden blocks

LEADER: "Hello, friends! Will you come over and sit with me, please? It's so great to see you all here today. If you're happy to be here today, say, 'Oh, happy day!"

CHILDREN: "Oh, happy day!"

LEADER: "Super! I want to tell you the most amazing, TRUE story from the Bible (hold up Bible) about a guy named Nehemiah. What was his name?"

CHILDREN: "Nehemiah!"

LEADER: "Yes! Nehemiah loved God very much. One day, he learned that the wall around the city of Jerusalem—his home—had broken down. He was very sad. Can you show me what your face would look like if you were VERY sad?

(Pause as children respond.)

"He was sad, but guess what he decided to do. Nehemiah decided to fix that wall. But oh, no! The wall was so BIG. (Spread out the blocks in front of you to make a mess.) And they were SUPER broken down. Do you think Nehemiah could fix it all on his own? (Pause.) No way! He needed lots of help. On the count of three, everyone say, 'HELP!' Ready? One, two, three!"

CHILDREN: "HELP!"

LEADER: "Well, LOTS of people came to help! (Start stacking the blocks to make a wall in front of you.) Each group took a different section of the wall. One group worked on the tower. Everyone on this side (point to the children to your right), show me how you would build a tower on the wall. (Pause.) Awesome.

"Another group worked on the gates. Everyone on this side (motion to the children on your left), show me how you would build a gate. (Pause.) Great job! And even more people worked on other sections of the wall. (Point to the children directly across from you in the circle.) Show me how you would build a section of the wall. (Pause.) Wow! You guys are awesome builders. Keep working, everyone!

(Keep stacking and placing the blocks on top of each other to create a "wall.")

"They worked and worked and worked and worked until one day, the wall was finished! Nehemiah was so thankful for all the people who helped him build the wall. They were all happy helpers! [Bottom Line] I am thankful for people who help me! Tell me: Who are you thankful for?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] "I am thankful for people who help me."

LEADER: "Me too! Let's pray and thank God for all the people who help us."

PRAYER

LEADER: "Heavenly Father, thank You for our moms and dads and grandparents and friends and teachers and Small Group Leaders and so many others who help us. We are SO thankful for them. And thank You for helping us too. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen."

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Key Question: Who are you thankful for?

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Basic Truth: God made me.

Groups (9:25, 10:40, 11:55)

The following activities help make the Bottom Line stick. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

9:00 & 11:30

Toolbox

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Truth, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: "Toolbox" Activity Page, and foam tool stickers

What You Do:

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page and some tool stickers. Encourage the children to place the tool stickers inside the toolbox on the Activity Page.

After the Activity: Send the Activity Page home with the child.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Nehemiah was a happy helper and helped build a wall."

During the Activity: "We are going to make a toolbox that you can take home to show your family and tell them all about our Bible Truth. (Give each child an Activity Page and tool stickers.) Place the tool stickers inside the toolbox." (Do activity.)

After the Activity: "Awesome job! You can take your toolbox home and tell your family all about how Nehemiah was a happy helper and that we can be happy helpers too! God gave us people to help us. Who are you thankful for? [Bottom Line] I am thankful for people who help me!"

10:15

Four Corners

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: "Corners" Activity Pages on the walls

What You Do:

During the Activity: Guide the children to stand in the middle of the activity area. Say, "Always give thanks to God for [doctors]," and have the children run to the corner with the picture of the doctor. Continue the activity with the remaining three pictures (police officer, firefighter, and mailman).

After the Activity: Say the memory verse with the children.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our memory verse says: Always give thanks to God, Ephesians 5:20. We should thank God for everything!"

During the Activity: "We have pictures on the wall of happy helpers. There is a doctor (point), a mailman (point), a firefighter (point), and a police officer (point). I am going to call out one of our happy helpers, and I want you to run to the picture of that happy helper. Are you ready? (Pause.) Always give thanks to God for doctors! Everyone run to the picture of the [doctor]. Great job! Always give thanks to God for police officers. Run to the picture of the [police officer]. Way to go!" (Continue the activity with the remaining two pictures and repeat as desired.)

After the Activity: "I am so glad God gave us people to help us! Our memory verse tells that we should always thank God. Let's say our memory verse together. Always give thanks to God, Ephesians 5:20. Who are you thankful for? [Bottom Line] I am thankful for people who help me!"

Playground/Centers (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

If the weather allows, use this time to travel outside for 10 minutes of playtime. Place your "We are on the Playground" sign on the door as you leave. This will allow parents who are late to find you.

Snack (9:52, 11:07, 12:22)

Get Ready to Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

MEMORY VERSE

"Always give thanks to God."

EPHESIANS 5:20, NCV



"Always

(Arms up around to side)

give thanks

(ASL thank you)

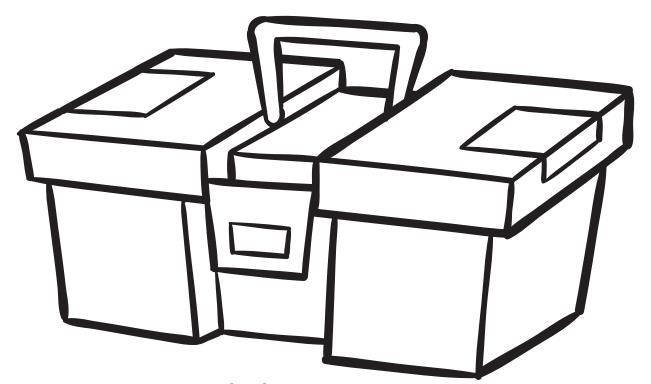
to God."

(Both hands pointing up)

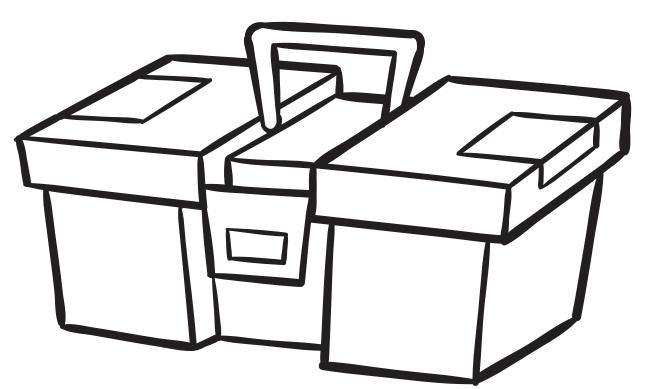
Ephesians 5:20

(Open hands like a book)

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