

Lesson Plan 4

I Will Work - Nehemiah

Objective

Students will learn the account of Nehemiah and be able to list four ways the student can work in a way pleasing to God and make plans to work.

Continue to work on the memory verse John 14:15 – If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

Supplies

Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:

- Lesson Review Visual Aids (one for teacher)
- Build The Bricks Activity Sheet (one per student)
- Take Home Sheet (one per student)
- Bible
- Pens/Pencils/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers (for attendance)

Optional Supplies

Print From the Site:

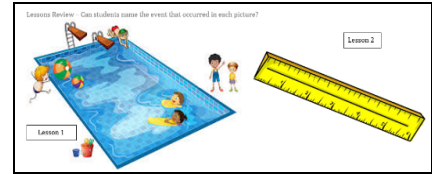
- Nehemiah Visual Aids (one for teacher)
- Nehemiah Pop-Up Wall Sheet (one per student, printed on light colored construction paper)
- Scissors for each student
- Tape or glue sticks to share
- Snack: Pretzel sticks (handful per student), napkins and water cups

Teacher Tips

- ★ See Lesson 1

1) Introduction to Lesson

As students enter, welcome them and help them find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.



Pass out bibles to those students that need one and have the “Lesson Review Visual Aid Sheet” ready to show.

Can anyone remember what we have studied so far? Look at the picture. Then, name what happened for the lesson we have already studied, and what we learned.

Lesson 1: We need to obey. Jesus tells us we need to obey His commandments.

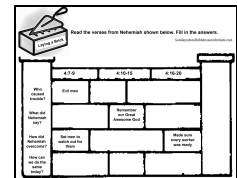
Lesson 2: We need to follow the Golden Rule – “Do to others as you would have them do to you.”

Lesson 3: We need to obey Jesus by loving others.

2) Class Time - Build The Bricks Activity Sheet

20-30 minutes

Have ready the “Build The Bricks” activity sheet for each student and pencils. Have Bibles ready to hand out or to give to a student who may not own one of their own.



Discussion

Have students turn to the book of Nehemiah in their Bibles. Once students find the book of Nehemiah by looking at the front of their Bibles in the Table of Contents help them find Chapter 4.

Tell the students: **Today we are going to talk about the importance of work and being willing to work for God. What are some ways you work at home or at school?** Let students answer: chores, homework, assignments at school, etc.

We are going to learn of a man named Nehemiah. A very hard-working and God-loving man.

Have you ever heard of something really sad and you wanted to help but didn't have the ability to do so? Maybe you heard that someone didn't have enough food to eat, or that someone's grandpa had died and you wanted to help but didn't know how. How did that make you feel? Let students answer.

We will see that Nehemiah had heard some bad news and it made him really sad. He wanted to help but didn't know how, but he knew what he could do.... He prayed to God for help and that started everything!

Nehemiah lived in a time when the Jewish people had been removed from their homeland because they were doing evil things. Nehemiah, even though a good man,

was taken away as well. He ended up being the cupbearer to the King of Persia who had taken over the new land. That meant that he had an important job to make sure the king was safe from any harm that might come to him.

One day Nehemiah heard from some of the people who had gone back to the land they were from. They said that the walls that protected the city in Jerusalem had been destroyed, leaving the people unsafe. When Nehemiah heard this, he cried, stopped eating and began to pray to God.

Listen while I read starting from Nehemiah 1:11-2:18 (Show visual aids or have someone show them for you)

Every time I say something that is happy or helpful for Nehemiah I want you to cheer and say “yay!” (You may have to help remind them to cheer)

Let’s begin.

Time to cheer:

2:6 – so it pleased the king to send me – yay!

Ask students:

What did Nehemiah ask the king? Send Nehemiah to Judah to rebuild the city

What did Nehemiah do before he asked the king? He prayed to God.

Why do we pray to God? for help, for others, for our family, because He is God and can answer us, etc.

Say, **Nehemiah was smart and knew that if he was going to get help – he needed to pray to God. Let’s see how God helped him. Remember to cheer when something good happens.**

Continue reading **Nehemiah 2:7-2:18**

Times to cheer:

2:8 – the king granted them to me according...to God

2:18 – Then they set their hands to this good work

Can someone tell me what has happened so far? Nehemiah heard the wall was broken, asked the king for help, got the help and went to Jerusalem and told the people to start building the wall and they were ready to work, even though evil men were angry about it.

What did Nehemiah do to begin the work? Prayed!!!! Asked the king for help. Was willing to go do the work. Got the materials needed.

So going back to our earlier discussion of something sad happening. What could we do, like Nehemiah, when something sad happens? Pray, ask people we trust to help, be willing to do the work – maybe write a card, make some cookies, send a letter, give some money, buy some food or clothes, etc.

Activity

Hand out one sheet to each student along with a pencil. Read the parts in Chapter 4 of Nehemiah that are listed at the top of the “wall” at each section and then together as a

class answer the questions and fill them in, helping each student with spelling or writing as needed.

Answers:			
4:7-9			
Evil Men	Prayed to God	Set men to watch out for them	Pray and watch for trouble
4:10-15			
Evil Men	Remember God	Set men to protect	Remember God will help and keep working
4:16-20			
Evil Men	God will fight for us	Made sure every worker ready	Keep working for good

When done the activity read **Nehemiah 6:15-16** then ask:

Did Nehemiah finish the work? Yes

Who allowed the work to be done according to Nehemiah? God!

When Nehemiah prayed to God and asked for help, Nehemiah received it so he could help those who were weak and in trouble. Let us remember that we can and should ask God for help and do the work needed when we hear others are in trouble, or are sick, or weak. Through God, we can do many things if we are willing to work!

What questions do you have about today's lesson?

3) Activity Time - Bringing The Lesson Home - Be A Worker

5 minutes

Ask students: **Is there anyone you know in school or church who is having trouble and it makes you sad? If so, after hearing about Nehemiah what are some things we can do to help?**

Pray, do something for them to help, be willing to work, get others to help, ask an adult to help you, make something, send something.

*If the students suggest something for a church member or a person you know and are willing to help with, come up with ideas and help the kids in the coming weeks actually do a work of service for that person as well as each week as a class, pray for them.

God calls us to work. Through Him we can do wonderful things to help those who are suffering or need help. We can help our family by being willing to work at home, we can help friends at school by helping them with homework, or pray for them, and be a friend to them and others so they are not sad. There are people we can write a nice card to encourage them. Lots of ideas!

What are ways you can work this week? Let students answer.

4) Lesson Review

5 minutes

Say: **What did we learn today?** Let students answer.

What did you like best about today's Bible lesson?

5) Optional Activity - Sing

5 minutes

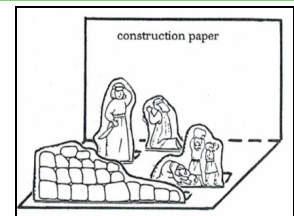
If time allows, choose songs that relate to this lesson from the “I Will Obey Songs” sheets

6) Optional Activity - Nehemiah Pop-Up Wall Craft

15 minutes

Prep

Gather tape/glue sticks, scissors, and print the two pages from the Nehemiah pop-up wall craft onto construction or cardstock paper in white or a light color. Take the construction sheets with the words and fold it in half so that the words are at the top when you open it and the bottom sits on the table as shown in the picture to the right.

Activity

We are going to make a wall like Nehemiah to remind us that we should pray, work, serve and help like Nehemiah did. Hand out Nehemiah characters to cut out along with scissors.

First we are going to cut out all the pictures, making sure we don't cut off the bottom piece as that will be folded to make the pictures stand up (Show picture or a sample if you made one)

Once they are done cutting out the shapes, have them take the glue or tape and tape the images onto the construction paper as shown in the picture (or something similar).

Tell them, **when you are done, write your name at the bottom.**

Read the words at the top of the construction page to remind them of what Nehemiah did and ask them:

What did Nehemiah do? Built a wall, prayed, helped, served, and worshiped God – Nehemiah worked.

What should we do today? Pray, help, serve, and worship God – we can work too! Help as needed, ensure all students clean up well before moving on.

7) Optional Activity - Snack (Pretzel Sticks)

5 minutes

Before Class: Have a bag of pretzel sticks – enough for each student to get 16 pieces to spell W-O-R-K out of the pretzels. (Some pretzels may need to be snapped in half to spell the letters R and K).



Say, **this snack is to remind us about our lesson today. Raise your hand if you remember what our lesson was about?** We obey Jesus when we work and help those in need. Hand out 16 pieces to each student, ensuring you check for allergies first. Tell them you want

them to spell the word W-O-R-K with their pretzels before eating them. **As we eat our snack, let's think of ways we can work with others.**

Review with students by asking them questions from the lesson again and discuss any questions they have while snacking.

8) Optional - Activities For Obeying The Rules

15 minutes

Teacher, May I?

Have the children line up at one end of the room. Explain: **When I call your name, I will give you something to do to obey. But before you can move, you must ask, "Teacher, may I?" Then once I say, "Yes, you may." You can do the thing I told you to do. If you forget to ask, "Teacher, may I?" before moving, you must go back to the beginning and start over. The first student to get all the way to me wins!** (Examples – take three baby steps towards me, one giant step, 2 bunny hops.) Make sure each child gets a turn each round until one player makes it to you. You can decide to replay it and let the winner be the next "Teacher" if you choose.

Teacher Says

We are going to play Teacher says. When I ask you to do something, I want you to obey. But to do it, you must first hear "Teacher says...". If you don't hear "Teacher says..." then don't do the command. If you do something that the Teacher didn't say, you are out of the game. Let's do a practice round. Everyone stand up and give each other some space. Teacher says touch your toes. Teacher says pat your head. Sit on your chair... I didn't say Teacher says! That was a practice, so anyone who made a mistake can join in again, now lets play.

(Examples: rub your tummy, march, stand on one foot, give yourself a hug, etc.)

9) Optional Activity - Memory Verse

2-5 minutes

Continue reading John 14:15 in their Bibles 2 times.

John 14:15 If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

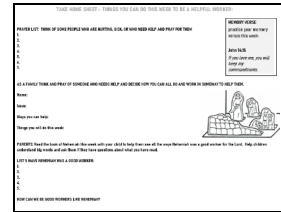
Other options include:

- You saying a word and having them repeat it as you go through the verse
- Have students repeat a small phrase ex: "If you love me" a few times before working on the next phrase.
- Have students repeat after each other
- Ask students to think of hand gestures. Ex: Give yourself a hug when you say "love me", point to their Bibles when they say "commandments", etc. and then go through verses as a class with gestures.

Remind students that Jesus is the One speaking. He is telling His followers that if they love Him, they will obey His Words that He spoke in the Bible. It is the same for us today, if we love Jesus, we will do what He says and obey His commands/Words.

10) Take Home Sheet

Hand out one sheet to parents if possible and be willing to answer any questions.



11) Closing Prayer

Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share. Say closing prayer remembering to include thoughts from the lesson today.