

May 21
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
THE PEOPLE PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL
Nehemiah 9-10

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God's people remembered all He had done and promised to be faithful. God is kind and loving. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

LEARN

1. GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON

Introduce the Bible Story

Explain that something that has already happened is in the past. Invite preschoolers to recall and talk about something that happened in the past. Children might say an event that occurred earlier in the week or a year or more ago. They may recall a time they were at church or a birthday memory. Be prepared to tell something from your past if needed.

SAY *You remembered and told about something that happened in the past. In today's Bible story, we will hear how the people remembered all God had done for them.*

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 9–10. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided script.

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the following review questions:

1. Who helped the people understand that they needed to stop disobeying God? (Nehemiah led the people in Jerusalem to turn away from their sin and turn back to God.)
2. How did God's people show they were sorry for their sins? (*Possible answers: the people stopped eating; they wore sackcloth and put dust on their heads; they spent time worshipping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done.*)
3. What did God do when the people turned from Him? (*God was forgiving, kind, and loving. He did not leave them.*)
4. Who has always done right even when His people have done wrong? (*God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong.*)
5. What did the people promise? (*The people promised to follow and worship only God. The people agreed to follow God's law.*)

6. How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

SAY Nehemiah helped the people understand that they needed to stop disobeying and start obeying God. They stopped eating and spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done. They prayed and remembered everything God had done in the past. The people agreed to follow God's law. Even when they disobeyed, God was still kind and loving to them. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.

4. LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

SAY Our big picture question is, **How should we feel when we sin?** The answer is, **When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.** Nehemiah led the people to turn away from their sin and turn back to God. They felt sorry for their sin and that they had disobeyed God. They spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done.

5. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Three Year Olds:

Place the key passage phrase marker at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to clap out the syllables of the key passage phrase as they say it with you several times.

SAY God had done so many things for His people, but they had turned from Him and disobeyed Him. The people felt sorry for disobeying God. They wanted to obey Him. We should feel sorry when we disobey God too and want to obey Him.

Four Year Olds:

Place the key passage marker at 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the verse aloud. Form two groups of preschoolers. Assign each group a section of the passage to learn. With a sad tone of voice, the first group will say, "Godly grief produces repentance." With a happy tone of voice, the second group will say, "that leads to salvation without regret." Practice saying each part a few times. Then, say the verse together.

SAY When we sin, we disobey God. God wants us to feel grief when we sin. That means that we should feel sorry when we sin. We can repent and tell God that we are sorry for our sins. God wants us to trust in His Son, Jesus.

5. PRAY

SAY God, You always do what is right. Help us to remember all You have done for us. Thank You for Your kindness and love through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

ACTIVITIES

TOSS A BEANBAG (great for younger kids)

Cut a large heart shape out of a piece of construction paper. Attach the heart shape to the floor with tape. Invite preschoolers to form a large circle around the heart. Take turns tossing a beanbag toward the heart. When the beanbag lands on the heart, guide preschoolers to say, "God is forgiving, kind, and loving." Play several rounds, varying how far away preschoolers are from the heart.

SAY You did a great job tossing the beanbag toward the heart shape. Each time it landed on the heart we said, 'God is forgiving, kind, and loving.' God is all of these things. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.

DRAW A PICTURE

Instruct each child to turn over to the blank back of the activity page, give them markers and crayons. Prompt each child to draw a picture of something he remembers doing in the past. It could be a picture of a time when he played with a friend on a playground, a birthday party, or went on a vacation.

SAY *You drew a picture of something you remembered doing in the past. We can remember many things that have happened. God's people remembered all God had done for them. God is kind and loving. Can you remember some things we have learned from the Bible that God has done?*

TELL ABOUT GOD OR JESUS (more suited for the four year olds)

Write each child's name on a slip of paper. Place the slips of paper in a gift bag. Gather children around a table or in a circle on the floor. Place the bag in the middle of the circle. Explain that each child's name is on a paper strip in the bag. Each child will have an opportunity to select a piece of paper, without looking. The preschooler whose name is drawn will tell something he knows about God or Jesus. It can be as simple as "Jesus loves me" or "God is kind and loving." Select a child to select a slip of paper from the gift bag. Read the child's name on the paper aloud. Continue play until each child has an opportunity to select a strip of paper from the bag and tell something he knows about God or Jesus.

SAY *We said things we remember about God and Jesus. God's people disobeyed God. Nehemiah helped the people understand that they needed to start obeying God. They spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done. They prayed and remembered everything God had done in the past. God is kind and loving. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.*

ACTIVITY PAGE (please send this home with parents)

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Nehemiah 9-10. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

THE PEOPLE PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL

STORYTELLING TIPS

Look through an illustrated Bible: Bring an illustrated Bible or an illustrated Bible dictionary to group time. As the story recalls past events, show illustrations depicting those events. Look specifically for pictures showing God's covenant with Abraham or the Israelites' journey out of Egypt.

Bow and pray: Before telling the story, explain that God's people were sad because of their sin. The people were sorry. They worshiped God and prayed. Say, "When you hear a prayer in today's story, bow your head, close your eyes, and pray."

*God's people were living in Judah. **Nehemiah led the people in Jerusalem to turn away from their sin and turn back to God. To show they were sorry for their sin, the people stopped eating. They wore sackcloth and put dust on their heads. They spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him about the wrong things they had done.***

The leaders stood and led God's people in prayer. They prayed, "You, LORD, are the only God. You created the heavens and the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them, and all the stars of heaven worship You."

*They remembered everything God had done in the past. They prayed, "You chose Abraham and made a covenant with him. You gave him the promised land and kept Your promise. **You always do what is right.**"*

God had rescued the Israelites from Egypt. He divided the Red Sea for them to cross. He led them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. He gave them the Ten Commandments. He gave them bread and water in the wilderness. But the people had turned from God. They worshiped idols and did not trust Him. Yet God was forgiving, kind, and loving. He did not leave them.

God took care of His people, but the people turned from Him. God sent prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. God let their enemies take over, but He did not leave them because God is kind and loving.

The leaders prayed, “Now today we are slaves in the land You gave our families in the past. We need help! So we promise to follow and worship only You.” The people agreed to follow God’s law.

Then the leaders and some of the people stayed in Jerusalem, and everyone else went to live in the other cities nearby.

Christ Connection: God’s people remembered all He had done and promised to be faithful. God is kind and loving. God has always done what is right even when His people have done what is wrong. We have God’s kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross so we can have life with God forever.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child’s sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today’s activity page to reinforce today’s Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

May 21

9:00am & 11:00am

Two Year Olds

THE PEOPLE PROMISED TO BE FAITHFUL

Nehemiah 9-10

CHRIST CONNECTION: God does what is right even when His people do what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: *We should feel sorry when we disobey God. 2 Corinthians 7:10*

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

PLAY A TURNING GAME

Invite toddlers to stand in a circle as you play upbeat worship music on an electronic device. Guide the toddlers to walk in a circle facing one direction. When you stop the music, toddlers must also stop walking. When you replay the music, they must turn and walk in the opposite direction. Play several rounds, stopping and restarting the music as time permits. Retell the Bible story.

SAY *God made His people happy, but the people still turned away from God. Nehemiah led the people to turn back to God. He wanted them to love God and follow Him.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

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ACTIVITIES

PLAY A REMEMBERING GAME

Place a few toys in a line on the floor in front of the toddlers. Ask the children to close their eyes while you remove a toy. When they open them, ask them which toy is missing. Praise the children for remembering! Play the game as long as the children are interested.

SAY Nehemiah led the people to turn back to God. Nehemiah reminded God's people that God is faithful even when we are not.

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *God does what is right even when His people do what is wrong. We have God's kindness and love through Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

Nehemiah led the people in Jerusalem to turn away from their sin and back to God. They spent time worshiping God, reading His Word, and telling Him the wrong things they had done. The people remembered how God protected, rescued, and provided for them. God made His people happy, but they still turned from Him. God is forgiving, kind, and loving. He did not leave them. God even sent prophets to warn them, but they did not listen. The leaders prayed for help, "We promise to follow and worship only You." The people agreed to obey God.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.