

Today's Suggested Schedule—September 2021, Week 3

Note: This version of the curriculum is designed especially for churches with fewer leaders and kids. You may want to use it if you have just one or two leaders and if you combine all your kids in both Large and Small Group time.

Today's Bible Story: Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now (Nehemiah and Sanballat) • *Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6*

Today's Bottom Line: Stay focused on what needs to be done.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord.* Colossians 3:23a (NIRV)

Monthly Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP (15 minutes)

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Early Arriver
Opening Activity

LARGE GROUP (35 minutes)

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

Welcome/Opener
Worship ("Working on Me" from *This Love* and "Make a Move" from *Make a Move* single)
Bible Story
Bottom Line
Prayer
Closer

SMALL GROUP (25 minutes)

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Bible Story Review: Brick, Sword, Message
Application Activity: Space Dust
Memory Verse Activity: Inside the Lines
Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Parent Cue Card (Print or Email)
GodTime Devotional for Kids
Parent Cue App

LARGE GROUP: Story (25 minutes) • Worship (10 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

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Monthly Life App: Initiative—Seeing what needs to be done and doing it

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Have coloring pages of Nehemiah and the ditto of the wall puzzle at the table for the children when they first get to Kid Zone.

Fanny, James, Linda

While sitting with the children, reinforce the concept of the importance of initiative. Remind the children of how important it is to stay focused on God and His plan for our lives. Discuss with the children how sometimes the world distracts us from the things of God wants us to do and the importance of trusting God no matter what.

While the children are at the table, the Leader enters, carrying plastic bin with Styrofoam bricks.

Fanny

Divide the children into two teams, have them line up behind the tape line. Have 2 piles of bricks

"All right! We have our teams. The first person on each team has to run to where their pile of bricks are and build a wall. After the wall is built, run back to your team. The leader will knock each wall down as you are running back to your team. The next person on your team will rebuild the wall. The leader will knock the wall down again and the next person will rebuild the wall. The team who finishes rebuilding the wall will win.

"Remember, you will each take a turn rebuilding the wall after it was knocked down until everyone takes a turn. Okay, on your mark, get set, GO!

After the game:

Countdown (60-second version)

Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

"Way to go, everyone! While you're on your feet, let's dance and sing as we worship God together!"

WORSHIP **James**

LEADER: “All of us are learning how we can take initiative—to see what needs to be done and do it. But if you ever feel like you’ve got a long way to go, don’t worry! God is always working in your heart and in your life, if you’re willing to let Him! Let’s worship God with this song that reminds us that He’s working on us, every day.

VIDEO: “Working on Me”

“Before we continue in worship, watch this.

Video (Media Package): Live Loud Video from Get Reel

“Did you know that we can show people what God is like by the way we live each day? We can take initiative and show God’s love with the way we act, the way we speak, and the way we treat others. As the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:31 (*NirV*), ‘So eat and drink and do everything else for the glory of God.’ With every move we make, we can point others to God. Let’s sing this song together and tell God that we want to make a move for Him!

Video (Media Package): “Make a Move” Dance Moves Music Video

SLIDE: Theme Background

“Great singing, everyone! You can have a seat.”

BIBLE STORY **Linda**

SETTING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “This month, we’re talking about a man named Nehemiah. His story is told in a book in the Bible (*hold up Bible*) called . . . you guessed it: Nehemiah!

“Nehemiah was a Jewish man who had been living away from his homeland, Jerusalem. One day, he learned that the city of Jerusalem was in disrepair. Even the city walls had been burned! This made Nehemiah very sad. But he didn’t just sit around and wish things could be different. He decided to do something to solve the problem. He asked the king to let him travel to Jerusalem and rebuild the city.

“I’ve asked Mr. James to play the role of Nehemiah for us today. Everyone, please give a round of applause for [helper’s name] . . . as Nehemiah!

James: *Adult helper enters, dressed as Nehemiah. (This could be a Biblical-style costume, or just a name sign.)*

(referencing the helper) “When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and saw the broken-down walls, he rallied the people to rebuild.

“Nehemiah” raises both arms and waves them in the air, encouraging the people to join him.

“And God moved the hearts of the people to join him.

Nehemiah gives a big thumbs-up, then freezes.

“But while the Jewish people were eager to repair the broken city wall and ruined gates, the people in the lands around them were not so thrilled about the idea. They knew that if the wall of Jerusalem was rebuilt, the Jewish people would be able to defend themselves again. They might become a powerful enemy.”

THE BAD GUYS

LEADER: “There were two people in particular who caused some problems for God’s people as they worked on the wall. Miss Fanny will play both people.

Nehemiah picks up the hammer and pretends to work on the wall, then freezes.

“These two men were Sanballat and Tobiah. They laughed and made fun of the people.

Fanny; Leader walks up to Nehemiah and holds stomach, pretending to laugh.

“They even tried to scare Nehemiah by making him think that the king would be upset with him for what he was doing.

Leader wags finger at Nehemiah.

“But no matter what the men said or did to Nehemiah, Nehemiah kept his cool. He knew that God was with His people and would give them success. Nehemiah said this to Sanballat and Tobiah.”

Leader opens the Bible to Nehemiah 2:20 (NIRV) and hands it to Nehemiah to read out loud.

HELPER (as NEHEMIAH): “The God of heaven will give us success. We serve him. So we’ll start rebuilding the walls.”

Nehemiah hands the Bible back to the Leader, then freezes back in his “work” pose.

LEADER: “Nehemiah assigned parts of the wall for each of the families and groups to rebuild.

Leader hands the clipboard to Nehemiah, who unfreezes, sets down the hammer, looks over the clipboard and around the room (as though assigning roles), then freezes again.

“Everyone got to work. In a short time, the walls began to rise. The people were making significant progress toward making their city strong and safe!

“No one was more shocked than Sanballat and Tobiah. They mocked the work to anyone who would listen. Sanballat said . . .

Fanny --Leader opens the Bible to Nehemiah 4:2 and walks around Nehemiah and reads, as if taunting him.

“The stones from their city wall and buildings are piled up like trash. And everything has been badly burned. Can they use those stones to rebuild everything again?”

“Then Tobiah chimed in.

Leader continues to circle around Nehemiah while reading Nehemiah 4:3.

“What are they building? They’re putting up a stone wall. But suppose a fox climbs on top of it. Even that will break it down!”

“But Nehemiah didn’t listen to those guys. Instead, he prayed to God.

Nehemiah sets down the clipboard, folds his hands, looks up, and freezes.

“Nehemiah and the people continued to work with all their hearts. Soon, they had rebuilt the wall until it was half as high as they wanted!”

Nehemiah gives another big thumbs-up, then freezes.

ALMOST THERE---LINDA

LEADER: “Tobiah and Sanballat were NOT happy that God’s people were making so much progress. They began to plot with the surrounding nations to attack Jerusalem before the wall could be finished.

“Nehemiah set guards in place, day and night.

Nehemiah points like he’s giving directions then freezes.

“But the people were exhausted. There were broken stones piled up everywhere, which made it hard to work, and they had to worry about being attacked at any moment!”

“Still, Nehemiah refused to be distracted. He stationed families at the weakest parts of the wall, armed with swords, spears, and bows.

Nehemiah acts like he’s tossing imaginary weapons to kids in the audience. Then he nods and freezes.

“Then he spoke to the crowd. He told them . . .”

Leader opens the Bible to Nehemiah 4:14 (NIRV) and hands it to Nehemiah to read out loud.

HELPER (as NEHEMIAH): “Don’t be afraid of your enemies. Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful. So fight for your families. Fight for your sons and daughters. Fight for your wives and homes.”

Nehemiah hands the Bible back to the Leader, then picks up the hammer and freezes in his “work” pose.

LEADER: “The people continued to build, but now they carried weapons as they worked. They had trumpets to sound the alarm if there was trouble. They worked from the very first light of sunrise until the stars came out at night. At last, the wall itself was finished!

Nehemiah pumps his fist and cheers.

“But . . . they couldn’t rest quite yet.

Nehemiah freezes.

“They still had to repair the entrance gates.”

THE FINISH LINE

LEADER: “Sanballat was furious to see that the project was almost complete. He knew this was his last chance to stop God’s people, so he sent a message to Nehemiah.

James-Nehemiah unfreezes and pretends to hammer.

Fanny-Leader hands one of the paper notes to Nehemiah, which he pretends to read, then freezes.

Linda--“Sanballat wanted to meet with Nehemiah and talk. But Nehemiah knew it was a trap, and that Sanballat meant to harm him. So he sent a message back.

While the Leader reads the verse, Nehemiah pretends to write a response on a slip of paper (on the clipboard).

Leader opens the Bible to Nehemiah 6:3 (NIRV) and reads.

“I’m working on a huge project. So I can’t get away. Why should the work stop while I leave it? Why should I go down and talk with you?”

Nehemiah hands the note to the Leader, then freezes in his “work” pose again.

“Still, Sanballat didn’t give up. He sent another message.

Leader taps Nehemiah and hands him another paper note.

“And then another.

Leader taps Nehemiah and hands him another paper note.

“And another.

Leader taps Nehemiah and hands him another paper note.

“And ANOTHER.

Leader taps Nehemiah and hands him another paper note.

“In all of these messages, Sanballat tried to get Nehemiah to leave the wall and meet with him. He even threatened to tell the Persian king that Nehemiah was trying to make HIMSELF king, to try to get Nehemiah in trouble. But Nehemiah sent a note back, telling Sanballat . . .

Leader opens the Bible to Nehemiah 6:8 (NIRV) and reads.

“What you are saying isn’t really happening. You are just making it up.

Nehemiah takes the other paper note from the clipboard and hands it to the Leader, then freezes in his “work” pose again.

“So Sanballat made one last attempt. He hired a man named Shemaiah to try to make Nehemiah look bad with his own people. This man, Shemaiah, lied and told Nehemiah that he should hide because men were coming to kill him.

Gesture like you’re trying to convince Nehemiah to run away.

“But Nehemiah saw through the trick and said he wouldn’t hide.

Nehemiah shakes his head, gets back in his “work” position, and freezes.

“He and the people kept on building. On the 52nd day of work, the wall and gates were finished! *(directly to Nehemiah)* For real this time!

Nehemiah cheers and celebrates.

“Everyone, please give our friend Nehemiah a hand. *(To Nehemiah)* Thank you so much for your help!”

Nehemiah exits.

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

LEADER: “The wall of Jerusalem was finally completed, by a group of ordinary, everyday people. Everyone could see that God had helped Nehemiah and the people stay focused and finish what He had called them to do.

“We can learn something really important about initiative from Nehemiah and the rest of God’s people. We can . . .

VIDEO: BIBLE STORY Play on Cue

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “stay focused on what needs to be done.

“Let’s talk to God and ask for His help, just like Nehemiah did!”

SLIDE: Theme Background with music

PRAY

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for helping Nehemiah and the people stay focused and complete the job You gave them. There are so many things that could have distracted them—just like there are so many things that can distract US today. Please help each of us **[Bottom Line] stay focused on what needs to be done**—and give us the initiative to see things through to the end. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

CLOSER Fanny

LEADER: “I’m so glad that **[Basic Truth]** I can trust God no matter what. That means I can trust God to help me as I do the work He’s given me.

“Let’s be honest. It’s easy for us to get distracted sometimes. When you’re supposed to focus on homework, you might get distracted by the TV or the internet. When you’re cleaning your room, you might find something you thought you’d lost and start to play with it instead. When you’re supposed to be listening to your teacher, you might get distracted by making funny faces at your classmates. We can get distracted by our stuff . . . by other people . . . or even by our own thoughts and worries.

“In those moments, we need to ask God for help. We need to take initiative to . . .

SLIDE: Bottom Line

[Bottom Line] “stay focused on what needs to be done. Say that with me.”

LEADER and KIDS: [Bottom Line] “Stay focused on what needs to be done.”

LEADER: “Think about Nehemiah and how he was able to stay focused. People on the outside were saying mean things and trying to keep him from getting the job done. It would have been easy for Nehemiah to get distracted or feel overwhelmed. But instead, he stayed focused. He remember that God was with him.

“Think about Jesus and how HE stayed focused on what He had come to do. There were a lot of things that could have distracted Jesus. But He stayed focused on what was most important: saving the world and making it possible for us to have a relationship with God.

“It’s not always easy to **[Bottom Line]** stay focused on what needs to be done. But that’s an important part of initiative. And we can do it because we know that God is with us. Don’t forget, you can ALWAYS talk to God and ask Him to help you!

“Let’s head to Small Group and talk about how we can stay focused—together!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.

AUDIO: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.

SLIDE: Theme

Optional Video (Media Package): Theme Loop

GETTING READY

Here's everything you need to know to get ready for this week.

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways (25 minutes)

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God (10 minutes)

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Leader
- Beanbag toss/cornhole board (or black posterboard; see "What You Do")
- Black craft paper or cloth
- Beanbags in two different colors
- Plastic bin
- Masking or gaffer's tape
- Dry erase board and dry erase marker
- Leader's phone

Music and Sound Effects:

- Upbeat music to use as kids enter and exit the room
- Fun instrumental music to play during the game

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Slide
- Life App Slide
- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

Optional Videos (available for purchase through the 252 Media Package):

- Theme Loop
- Countdown (30- or 60-second version)
- Theme
- Theme Transition to Life App
- Life App Transition to Theme

What You Do:

- Download and print this week's tech sheet for everyone helping with Large Group.
- Download the slides or optional videos and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- Download music from a resource such as iTunes® and have it ready to play.
- *Optional:* Download a countdown video from a royalty-free site. Load it into your presentation software and have it ready to play during the Opener. You could also keep time on a smartphone or watch. *Note: Some presentation software such as ProPresenter® have a countdown clock built into the program that you can overlay on a still image.*
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. These graphic motion loops are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- If possible, borrow a board from a beanbag toss/cornhole game. Cover the board with black craft paper or cloth, and cut a hole in the paper/cloth to match the hole in the board. Secure the paper/cloth with tape.

- If you can't locate a board, you could use black posterboard instead (i.e. cut a large hole in the posterboard, and hang it up for kids to toss the beanbags through).
- Place the beanbags in the plastic bin.
- Practice tossing beanbags to determine the optimal distance. You want it to be possible for the kids to toss beanbags through the hole, but it shouldn't be TOO easy. Once you find the right distance, tape a line that the kids can stand behind.

2. Worship

What You Need:

- Leader(s)

Music and Sound Effects:

- "Working on Me" from *This Love*
- "Make a Move" from *Make a Move* single

Optional Videos (available for purchase):

- *Live Loud* Video from *Get Reel* (available through the 252 Media Package)
- "Make a Move" Dance Moves Music Video (available through the 252 Media Package)

What You Do:

- Download all songs and have them ready to use.
- Dance Moves Music Videos and Live Lyrics Videos are available for many Orange Kids Music songs. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.
- A 252 Media Package is available for purchase to go along with each curriculum tier. The *Live Loud* faith skills video and the Dance Moves Music Video for the monthly worship song are included in the package. For more information, visit Store.ThinkOrange.com.

3. Bible Story

What You Need:

- Leader
- Adult volunteer to play Nehemiah (no line memorization required)
- Bible
- Costume for the Nehemiah volunteer (Biblical-style costume, or just a name sign)
- Hammer
- Clipboard, with two small pieces of paper, folded over
- Five small pieces of paper, folded over (for the Leader)
- Small table where the helper playing Nehemiah can set down props

Large Group Visuals:

- Theme Background Slide
- Bottom Line Slide

What You Do:

- Download the slides and have them ready to use. If you do not have screen capabilities, you have Orange's permission to enlarge and print the slides on paper.
- While the adult volunteer doesn't have speaking lines, there is a lot of interaction between the Leader and Nehemiah, so if you have the opportunity to rehearse ahead of time, that would be ideal.

- Set the table, hammer, and clipboard (with two notes) on the stage, but out of the way for the Opener and Worship. Place the Bible and five notes nearby so they're accessible for the Leader.

Video Enhancements for Your Environment

Available for additional purchase at Store.ThinkOrange.com.

FEATURE PRESENTATION: Everything you need to pull off a dynamic video storytelling experience, including video Bible presentations to complement 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum. Our Large Group scripts are interchangeable with these videos so you can plug and play the way you need to each week.

For 252 Kids (kindergarten through 3rd grade):

- *252 Story* brings you the Bible story in a simple and direct way through a professional Storyteller accompanied by engaging visuals.
- *Also included:* Intro and Outro videos with a character Host. The Intros set up the Bible story, while the Outros connect the story to the weekly Bottom Line. These videos are interchangeable with the live Opener and Closer, so you can use them to bookend either a live Storyteller or *252 Story*.

For 252 Preteen (4th and 5th grade):

- In *The So & So Show*, two Hosts walk you through a contemporary and comedic presentation of the Bible story. This YouTube-style show sets up the story and also connects it to the weekly Key Question for preteens.

GET REEL: Videos and graphics to enhance your 252 Kids and 252 Preteen curriculum environments. Four videos each month will help kids learn basic faith skills. Use them in your FX, Large Group, or as a promotional piece to show in your adult services:

Discovery—Listen to God's words (HEAR)

Dear God—Dialogue with God (PRAY)

One Thing—Articulate your faith (TALK)

Live Loud—Worship with your life (LIVE)

Additional environment enhancements including:

- Graphic motion loops
- Themed audio transitions
- Life App and monthly widget promo videos (M.C. Haggis)
- Countdown videos (30 and 60 seconds)
- Music videos for original songs that highlight each Life App
- Retro Reel video to play on your fifth Sunday