



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 42 SKIT

Principle: Prayer, Dependence on God & Hard Work.

Bible Character: Nehemiah

Scripture Reference: Nehemiah 1-3



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, please read through Nehemiah 1-3.

Nehemiah was an Israelite who was living in Susa. He learned of Jerusalem's vulnerability after its wall and gates have been destroyed, and he immediately turned to God in prayer. He praised God for who He is and then humbled himself before God, recognizing his own sins and the sins of his people. He asked God for help. After praying, he asked the king for permission to rebuild the city, knowing the king had already denied the Israelites once from rebuilding it. Nehemiah was afraid, but he knew God was with him; he depended on God. God was faithful and Nehemiah was able to work hard at the task God gave him in rebuilding Jerusalem.

How do you respond when difficult situations come your way, or in times of trial? Do you turn to God in prayer first and depend on Him? Or, do you try to make things better by yourself? Is your life characterized by prayer as Nehemiah's was? Is your fear of God greater than your fear of man? Spend some time asking God to reveal how you can better depend on Him and characterize your life by prayer.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

1) Run-through/Prayer

Run-through order of service (assigned parts, transitions, slides for music and skit, video if applicable, etc), assign door greeters, pray, mic check

2) Welcome Cabins

Band member says, "Welcome to Camp Grace!" before intro song

3) Intro Song

4) Camp Competition

Tissue Pull

Give one camper from each cabin an unopened tissue box. Tell them that when the game begins, they have to pull all the tissues out of the box one at a time. The camper who pulls out all of the tissues first wins the camp banner for the week.

5) Worship Set

Worship Connector: Who can remember what we talked about last week? King Hezekiah and King Josiah. We saw how they were great leaders in their time. Today we are going to look at another great leader, Nehemiah. He was a very hard worker; he gathered the Israelites together to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. But he did not do this on his own. He first went to God in prayer, depended on God to direct him and help him, and then he worked hard at what God had given him to do. God calls us to do the same thing: go to Him in prayer, depend on Him with our life, and work hard at the tasks He gives us to do. As we sing this next song, let's think about how God is our leader, our king of Kings whom we can depend on and follow.

6) Skit

More Keys to Leadership

ProPresenter:

Slides: Keys to Being a Good Leader:

- 1) Cling to the Lord.
- 2) Do right in His sight.
- 3) Pray all the time about everything.
- 4) Work hard at what He gives you to do.

Characters:

Storyteller

Staff Member #1: Worker #1

Staff Member #2: Worker #2

Props:

Medium length 2x4

2 tool belts

Measuring tape (that does not lock in place)

Script:

(Note: Think 'Three Stooges' for the physical comedy here.) Two workers wearing tool belts, carrying a medium length 2x4 (one on each end, plank propped on shoulders) enter. When they are on stage, Worker #1 bends to check his shoelace and Worker #2 twists around to see what happened to his partner. He is unable to see his partner, who is checking his shoelace. Worker #1 stands up. When Worker #2 twists back to front, he knocks Worker #1 down with the plank. (Of course, this is only a pretend hit, which will have to be well rehearsed.)

Worker #2: Hey! What are you doing down there? We've got work to do. This is no time for a nap.

Worker #1: (*Stands and rubs his head. Walks over and takes the plank from Worker #2 and lays it aside. He then pulls the tape measure from his tool belt.*) Here. You hold this end. I'm going to go this way with my end. (Begins walking in the opposite direction, with his back to Worker #2.)

Worker #2: (Holds his end of the tape measure and walks right behind Worker #1.)

Worker #1: (Stops to read his measurement.) Okay, I've got... (Turns quickly to come face to face with Worker #2.) What are you doing? I told you to hold your end.

Worker #2: I did. I've got it right here.

Worker #1: Here. Hold your end against this point. (Against the wall.) You stay right there holding your end. I will walk this way. Got it?

Worker #2: Got it! (Holds his end, looking right at the mural.)

Storyteller: (*Enters and walks right behind Worker #2.*) Hey! Whatcha doin'?

Worker #2: (Becomes startled, lets go of tape measure. It snaps back to Worker #1, causing him to lose his balance and fall – make sure no kids are near!)

Worker #1: (Stands.) Oh, this is just not working out. Hey! Would you like to help us measure?

Storyteller: I'd be happy to help, but do you mind if I ask you why we're measuring?

Worker #2: We're building a wall.

Storyteller: A wall?

Worker #1: Sure. Our plan is build a wall around all of Camp Grace.

Storyteller: Do we need a wall around Camp Grace?

Worker #2: Well, we were reading in the book of Nehemiah in our Bibles about how Nehemiah helped build a wall around Jerusalem. The wall was to keep Jerusalem safe from their enemies. We thought, "Hey, why not build a wall around Camp Grace?" So, here we are.

Storyteller: I see. You're right about Nehemiah helping to build the wall around Jerusalem to help keep Jerusalem safe. That was very important in Bible days. The cities had strong walls to help protect the city from its enemies. Today, not very many cities have walls around them. I'm not sure that many camps have walls, either. But you're on the right track.

Worker #1: We are? What track is that?

Storyteller: You're on the track to following the example set by an important Bible character. Nehemiah was a great leader. Do you guys remember last week when we talked about King Hezekiah and King Josiah? They were good leaders. We learned that we, too, could be good leaders by clinging to the Lord and doing right in His sight.

Worker #2: *(Chants the phrase as we did the previous week.)* Cling to the Lord and do right in His sight. Cling to the Lord and do right in His sight. Oh yeah! Cling to the Lord and do right in His sight.

Worker #1: Okay, okay...

Storyteller: Nehemiah clung to the Lord and did right in His sight. He had a very close relationship with God. He prayed about every aspect of his life and put his problems in God's hands. When he heard that the walls in Jerusalem were torn down and in bad shape, he cried. He cried for days.

Worker #2: He cried over walls?!

Storyteller: Yep! He cried because he loved the people of Jerusalem. He wanted them to be safe, but more than that, he wanted them to turn back to God. Nehemiah's first step was prayer.

Worker #2: Prayer?

Storyteller: Right. See, Nehemiah knew that God was always in charge. He knew that God had a plan. So, he went to God first and put his problem in God's hands.

Worker #1: I read the story. So, I know that when Nehemiah prayed about the problem, he felt God wanted him to go to Jerusalem to start the project of rebuilding the walls. Nehemiah worked for a king. He was the cupbearer to the king. He went to his boss, the king, to ask for time off to rebuild the walls in Jerusalem. He was afraid to ask, but he prayed about that, too. In fact, he prayed right in the middle of trying to talk to the king about a little time off. The king gave him time off to go rebuild the walls.

Worker #2: The king gave him the time off, but I remember from the story that there were some governors that were really against the whole idea. But Nehemiah didn't listen to them, even if they were powerful. He just did what he knew God wanted him to do. He was obedient to God.

Storyteller: Nehemiah was obedient. He got to Jerusalem and assessed the problem. Then, he went right to work. Men and women, too, jumped in to help with the project. They all worked hard to successfully rebuild the walls and gates around Jerusalem.

Worker #1: Maybe we got a little carried away with wanting to build the wall around Camp Grace. We wanted to follow Nehemiah's example. But we don't need to build a wall to follow his example.

Worker #2: We don't? That's a relief. I was a little worried about doing that much work.

Storyteller: The example we can all follow from Nehemiah's story is the example of good leadership.

SLIDE

Keys to Being a Good Leader

- 1) Cling to the Lord.
- 2) Do right in His sight.
- 3) Pray all the time about everything.
- 4) Work hard at what He gives you to do.

We talked about leadership last week. We can add to what we learned last week. To be a good leader, we should cling to the Lord and do right in His sight. We should also pray all the time about everything. Nehemiah did that. We can also be obedient to God and work hard with the work God gives us to do. Let's pray.

Father, thank You for what You are teaching us about being the kind of leaders You want us to be. Thank You for the example of prayer and hard work in Nehemiah's life. Help us to depend on and obey You in everything. Amen.



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