

Today's Suggested Schedule—November 2025, Week 5

Today's Bible Story: Nehemiah • *Nehemiah 1–4, 6:1-15*

Today's Bottom Line: God can help you do big things.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Those who trust in the LORD will receive new strength. They will fly as high as eagles. They will run and not get tired. They will walk and not grow weak.* Isaiah 40:31 (NirV)

Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Bible Story Review: Built to Last

- Playdoh
- Bible marked at Nehemiah 2:17-18 and 4:14
- Timer

Application Activity: The Blueprint

- Pencils
- Coloring supplies
- Rulers

Memory Verse Activity: Verse Roll

- Bibles
- Cones or floor tape

Prayer Activity: Pray and Dismiss

- Index cards
- Coloring supplies

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for kids who will visit your group for the first time. Thank God that He goes with you through everything and helps you do even bigger things than you could do on your own. Recall an age-appropriate story about when you asked God for help, and He helped you do something bigger than you'd ever thought you'd be able to accomplish. Pray that kids understand that being obedient in the little things over time is a big thing. Ask God to help the kids learn how to go through all of life with Him so they will do all things together with Him!

1. Bible Story Review- Built to Last

What You Need:

- Playdoh
- toothpicks
- Bible marked at Nehemiah 2:17-18 and 4:14
- Timer
- *Optional: handheld fan or paper fan*

What You Do:

- Gather the kids around a table or another flat surface.
- Give every kid a cup of playdoh and a bag of toothpicks.

Explore Together:

- Say, "Nehemiah trusted God with a BIG job—rebuilding Jerusalem's walls! But Nehemiah didn't do it alone, and he didn't let distractions stop him."
- Demonstrate and explain how the kids will have 3 minutes to build a mini wall using only what's in their cup.
- Set the timer and encourage them to begin.
- Once the timer is up, say, "Let's see how strong your walls are!"
- Test each kid's wall by gently blowing on it or fanning it. (*Optional: Use the handheld fan or paper fan.*)
- Then, invite the kids to form groups of 2-3 and bring their walls.
- Give the groups three more minutes to rebuild a stronger wall together.

Talk Together:

- Call on several kids to help you read from the marked Bible, Nehemiah 2:17-18 and 4:14.
- Ask: "Who did Nehemiah know was helping him?"
 - *God! He told the leaders and people of Jerusalem all about God's help!*
- Ask, "What do we discover about who God is in Nehemiah's story?"
 - *God helps us when we ask.*
 - *God is great and powerful.*
 - *We can do big things with Him.*

What You Say:

"Amazing building skills! Nehemiah wasn't a builder, and he lived nearly hundreds and hundreds of miles from his homeland. But God gave him a picture in his heart of what to do, and he trusted God to give him everything he needed to take action on it! He spent time pouring his heart out to God, made a plan, and God provided him with all the understanding and resources he needed to do this epic job.

"The whole task of rebuilding the wall was something Nehemiah did with God. Before Nehemiah went to the king to ask for building supplies, he prayed and asked his friend, God, to help. Whenever Nehemiah needed help throughout rebuilding the walls—and it was often, because it was a big job—he prayed. He asked God for what he needed, and God gave it to him.

"Nehemiah knew it was God who was helping him. In Nehemiah 2:8 (NIRV) he said: *God was kind to me and helped me.*

"The two of them did the big task of rebuilding the walls together.

“You might not be building a wall around a city, but you do face big things too. God might want you to help a younger kid, or start something new like a club that helps others feel seen and loved. Or God might want you to use your creativity (like your ideas, or your art) to tell His story in a way only you can!

“When we face big things like this, the same God who went with Nehemiah through every step goes with us. We can trust God to give us the confidence and everything we need—we just have to talk to Him and ask Him for it! So face every big thing in your life together with God. Tell Him how you feel and ask Him to give you courage, understanding, patience, endurance, physical supplies—everything you need at every step—for what needs to be done.

“God wants you to build everything in your life with Him. **God can help you do big things!**”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- If your group would work best in pairs for this activity, let them start in pairs from the beginning!
- You can swap mini marshmallows for clay or playdough.

2. Application Activity- The Blueprint*

What You Need:

- “Blueprint Stickers” Activity Page
- blueprint paper
- Pencils
- Coloring supplies
- Rulers

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together around a flat surface.
- Give every kid a piece of blueprint paper.
- Set out the pencils, coloring supplies, and rulers.
- Say, “Today, you’re going to design a confidence blueprint! Nehemiah didn’t know how to build walls, but God gave him what he needed. Let’s imagine what big things God might help you to do!”
- Say, “What’s something big in your life that you want to do—but you know you’ll need God’s help with? It could be something that feels hard, scary, or way bigger than you.”
 - *Share examples like forgiving someone, making new friends, or talking about Jesus at school.*
- Encourage the kids to quietly think or whisper a prayer to God about it.
- Invite the kids to use the supplies to sketch what they’re asking for God’s help with.
 - *They can draw symbols, words, or various scenes.*
- Invite the kids to write a simple faith declaration on their blueprint.
 - *“God is my strength.”*
 - *“God can help me do big things.”*
 - *“I can do this with God’s help!”*
- **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate time when you had to trust God with something big. How did God help you through it? What did you ask Him for at each step?)**

What You Say:

“I love each of your blueprints! Nehemiah didn’t know how to build walls. BUT he *spent time pouring his heart out to God and asking for help*—and God gave him what he needed. That’s what confidence in God looks like. It’s not about knowing how everything will work. It’s about trusting that God is with you, that He is bigger than anything you are facing, and He will help you do what He’s put on your heart to do.

“But here’s something even more amazing: When you choose to follow Jesus, God sends the Holy Spirit to live in you! That means you never have to face anything alone. You and God’s very Spirit face whatever your life brings together every day. And He will help You! **God can help you do big things.**

“If you’ve already chosen to follow Jesus, that means God is already building something great in your life. And if you haven’t made that decision yet but you’re curious or have questions, you can always talk to a trusted adult or me. Saying yes to Jesus is the biggest, most important decision you’ll ever make!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- Complete this activity in pairs if it works better for your group.

3. Memory Verse Activity- Verse Roll

What You Need:

- Bibles
- Assembled dice from the “Verse Roll” Activity Page
- “Verse Cards” Activity Page
- Cones or floor tape

What You Do:

- Divide the kids into three teams.
- Mark three start lines with cones or floor tape.
- Mark three finish lines a few feet away from each start line.
- Scatter a set of “Verse Cards” Activity Pages at each team’s finish line.
- Give each team a paper dice from the “Verse Roll” Activity Page and a Bible.
- Invite the teams to look up Isaiah 40:31 as a group using the Bible Navigation Tips.
- Encourage them to read the verse together.
- Discuss any words in Isaiah 40:31 that might be unfamiliar to the kids.

Finding verses for 2-3rd graders: Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. (Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.) When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find the name of the book in the list. When they find the book, lead them to look at the page number beside it. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find that book. Help the kids find the page. When they find the book, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find the correct chapter. Then explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find the correct verse in that chapter.

Move Together:

- The kids in each team will take turns rolling the verse dice.
- After rolling the dice, the kid who rolled it is to retrieve the matching card from the finish line.
- If a kid rolls a phrase of the Memory Verse they’ve already collected, they may roll again.
- After all six phrases of the Memory Verse are collected, the teams are to work together to put the verse in order.
- Once everyone is finished, read the verse aloud and celebrate!

What You Say:

“Great job, teams! Isaiah 40:31 reminds us that when we trust in God, He gives us strength. When we feel tired, nervous, or overwhelmed—God is with you! When you trust Jesus, God gives you new strength through the Holy Spirit. None of us has to be strong on our own. We can keep going because we can trust God to give us EVERYTHING we need to do big things!”

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- For an activity with less movement, allow the teams to roll the dice at a table or on a tray and pick the cards from a stack instead of running.
- Encourage the teams to work together to support each other with reading the cards, or have a leader read the cards.

4. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Index cards
- Coloring supplies

What You Do:

- Give every kid an index card.
- Set out the coloring supplies.
- Challenge the kids to think about something they need God's help with.
- Invite them to write or draw it on their index card.
- Lead a short prayer, then give kids time to talk to God quietly or write their own prayer on the other side of the card.

Prayer:

"God, thank You for being good and powerful! You were with Nehemiah, and we are so thankful You are with us too! You've made each of us SO uniquely, and we are so grateful. We want to live for You, God, so help us to do the big things You call us to do. YOU are strong when we feel weak, You are wise when we feel unsure—so remind us of those truths when we don't feel confident. Help us to trust You and take the next brave step You ask us to do. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen!"