



**Nehemiah Gets Supplies From
the King** Nehemiah 1:1-2:9

WEEK 10

POINT ➡ WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.

Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1, and show the children the words. SAY: **The Bible is God's special book that tells how God takes care of people. Today we'll learn how God took care of Nehemiah. Nehemiah worked for a king in a land far from his home in Jerusalem. Nehemiah was the king's cupbearer. That meant he tested the king's drinks to make sure they didn't have any poison in them. As I tell what happened, we'll act out what's happening. You can copy my motions.**

Have the children stand in a circle and mime what you do as you SAY: **One day, some people came to visit Nehemiah. They told him that the wall around Jerusalem was broken. Nehemiah cried (pantomime crying) when he heard that the wall was broken, and he prayed (pantomime praying) to God for help. Nehemiah knew that Jerusalem needed a wall to protect the people, and he**

wanted to help rebuild the wall (pantomime building). He knew he'd need God to come to the rescue!

So Nehemiah went to see the king (pantomime walking in place), to ask the king for permission (pantomime holding hands out, pleading) to go to Jerusalem. When the king said yes, Nehemiah's sad face turned happy (pantomime a sad face turning into a smile). Nehemiah asked the king to write him a letter (pause for kids to scribble on their papers) to help him get wood to build the wall. And Nehemiah asked for a letter (pause for kids to scribble on their papers) to tell others to keep him safe while he traveled.

ASK: **Tell about a time someone else needed help.**

What can we do when we find out someone needs help?

SAY: **Nehemiah believed God would help him because he knew ➡ WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED. And God helped Nehemiah get wood and letters to keep him safe.** Have kids hold on to their "letters" for when they do the people smart card in this lesson.





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Have the children hold their letters from the *Bible Buzz Card* with the 🗉 icon, and form a line to play a game similar to Mother, May I. Stand across the room from them. SAY: **You're going to take turns asking the king for permission to go to Jerusalem to help rebuild the wall. When I ask you how many steps it will take, you need to hold up your letter and hold up fingers to show how many steps you want to take. To start, put your letter behind your back.**

Begin with the first child, and SAY: [Name of child], **you want to go to Jerusalem. How many baby steps will it take?** The child will hold up some fingers. If the child holds up the letter also, say that he or she can take the number of baby steps requested.

If the child forgets to hold up the letter, SAY: **You forgot your letter!** The child must remain in place. Go through the same steps with the next child, continuing so each child gets a turn. When everyone has reached you, have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: **Nehemiah showed his letter when he traveled, so people would know the king said he could go to Jerusalem. It was dangerous to travel without the king's protection.**

ASK: **Tell about a person God gave to help protect you.**

Tell about a time you did something scary and what made you brave enough to do it.

SAY: **Nehemiah prayed to God for protection and help in rebuilding the wall. And God came to the rescue by having the king write letters. Just as Nehemiah trusted God to give him what he needed, ➡ WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.**



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Pass out paper and *Color Switchers Markers*. Have children draw things Nehemiah did to get ready for his trip to Jerusalem. For example, kids might draw him praying, talking to the king, getting a letter, or getting wood for the wall. Gather children together and have them pretend the *To the Rescue! Box* is a suitcase. Have them put their drawings in the suitcase. Then tell the children they're going to pretend they're taking a trip.

ASK: **What would we need to put in our suitcase if we were going on a trip?** As children each think of things, have them pretend to put the items in the suitcase.

SAY: Nehemiah needed wood and letters from the king for his trip. We need different things for different trips, but we always need God with us. And ➡ **WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.**

Lead children in singing and doing the motions for ● "Everything We Need" (track 12) on the *CD*.

SING:

When our hearts are hungry (*hold stomach*),

He is a miracle indeed. (*Wiggle fingers over head.*)

We can trust him (*hug yourself*);

He's everything we need. (*Point up with both hands.*)

(Repeat.)

He's everything we need (*point up with both hands*),

Everything we need. (*Spread arms.*)

And we can trust him (*hug yourself*);

He's everything we need. (*Point up with both hands.*)

(Repeat.)

(Sing both parts simultaneously 2x.)

And we can trust him (*hug yourself*);

He's everything we need. (*Point up with both hands.*)

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ASK: **What are some things God has given us that we can't put in a suitcase?**

What are some ways we can thank God for giving us the things we need?

SAY: God has given us a lot of wonderful things! We can thank him and remember ➡ **WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.**



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SAY: I'm going to tell you about something I'm taking on a trip. But I'm going to give you a word that sounds like what I need, instead of the word for what I'll actually need. Listen closely, and then raise your hand if you know what I really need. Ready?

I'm going on a trip, and I'm packing my things in a bootcase. Let kids raise their hands and try to guess that what you really need is a suitcase. Next, let children take turns making up their own words to complete the sentence "I'm going on a trip, and I need to take a [word that sounds like what they're really thinking they need]." Made-up words are fine for this game!

ASK: How did you decide what you might need for a trip?

What helped you figure out what other kids needed?

What are some ways God has helped you even when you didn't ask for it?

SAY: God knew that Nehemiah would need protection on his trip, so he helped make that happen. The king offered to help before Nehemiah even asked for it. God knows things we need that we don't even know we need!

We might ask for one thing, but God knows it's not really the best thing for us. In our game, I said I needed a bootcase, but what I really needed was a suitcase. Even when we ask for the wrong thing, God will give us what we really need. ➡ **WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED** because he loves us so much.



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Gather kids around you. SAY: **When Nehemiah decided to go to Jerusalem to help rebuild the city wall, he thought ahead about things he would need. He told the king what he needed, and the king helped him get all his supplies. When we have work to do, we can do the same thing.**

Before we start working, we can stop and think about what we need and what we can do to get these things. I'm going to name some things people do. After I say each thing, raise your hand and tell me what people need to do these things. Choose activities from the following list, letting kids list things needed for each:

- Brushing teeth
- Making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich
- Throwing a party
- Taking care of a pet
- Drawing a picture to mail to Grandma

ASK: **How did you know what you needed for each of these things?**

What are things you really need from God?

SAY: **God is the one who made everything. He never needs anything because he already has it all. And that means he can give us everything we need. That's why** ➡ **WE TRUST GOD TO GIVE US WHAT WE NEED.**