

# Kids' Church Training

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 [pursuegodkids.org/training/](https://pursuegodkids.org/training/)

March 30, 2018

Use this series to train leaders and volunteers on the Explorers curriculum at PursueGOD Kids. We'll cover three principles to keep everyone on the same page as we help kids pursue God.

## Session 1: Prioritize Safety

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The key to success for any kid's ministry starts with the environment. From a kid's point of view, they want a fun environment full of color and energy. They don't want to hang around in a place that's drab and depressing. From a parent's point of view, they want to see a safe and orderly space that lends itself to learning. So, as kids ministry volunteers, you need to take into consideration both points of view.

### Make a good first impression

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As volunteers, start your day by looking at your classroom. Make sure it's clean and stocked with fun toys or activities that can engage the kids right away. Greet kids at the door and call them by name. If they're new, introduce yourself. If you can, interact with the parents so they get to know you, too.

### Follow your policies and procedures

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This is of paramount importance. In order to ensure the safety and security of the kids in your care, you must follow your policies and procedures. This ensures the safety of both the kids and the volunteers. So, make sure you know how your check in and check out system works and understand the bathroom protocols work at your church. Read through them so you can understand them and then be committed to following them.

Church should be a safe place for kids to learn about Jesus. Following the policies and procedures will help to create that safe space for kids and will give parents the confidence to know that their kids will be okay.

#### Talk About It

1. *What experiences (good and bad) have you had with churches or Kids Church volunteers? What things did you notice that excited you or turned you off?*
2. *What are some conclusions parents might draw if they see a messy, disorganized classroom? What are they likely to think about a structured and clean classroom?*
3. *Why are policies important for safety in a church setting?*
4. *Why is it important to have good classroom management?*

## Session 2: Lead with Energy

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Faithful kids church volunteers are the best! After all, a successful kids ministry is dependent upon its volunteers. You guys are the face of the ministry. You're the ones that interact with the kids and bring the Bible lesson alive every week. So, your mindset and prep work will either make or break the experience.

### Remember to have a servant's heart

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Serving can be hard sometimes. You might wake up not feeling well or just not in the mood to come to church. If that happens, just remember how your actions affect the whole. So, when you can't serve, find a sub or give enough notice to your coordinator so they can make the appropriate adjustments. And, every time, come with a good attitude. God loves a cheerful giver which includes giving of your time.

### Lead with excitement and energy

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No one likes to listen to a monotone person, especially kids. Come to your class with a smile and an infectious energy that gets the kids excited to learn about Jesus. After all, they will follow your lead. So, if you model that it's fun to worship Jesus by singing songs and learning about him in the Bible, the kids will think it's fun, too.

### Preparing before class is the key

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Our lessons are short and concise so that means your prep time is easy. Just read through the lesson overview and take note of the Big Idea, Key Question and Memory verse. This will help you to lead with confidence and clarity so that you can help kids discover more about Jesus and his love for them.

Working with kids is a privilege. Teaching them about Jesus is an honor. So, as you serve, remember to show your love for Jesus through your energy and effort.

Talk About It

1. *Describe the best teacher you ever had. What made them great? Describe the worst teacher you ever had. What made them terrible?*
2. *What are some ways to engage with the kids in an energetic, fun way?*
3. *What might you be communicating to kids if you don't participate in worship?*
4. *What happens when teachers aren't prepared to teach? Share some helpful tips for preparing your lesson each week.*

## Session 3: Partner with Parents

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The heart behind all of our resources at PGkids is to empower parents to talk to their kids about matters relating to faith and life. The reason- we believe that parents are ultimately the pastors of their kids, so even though church is an important part of a child's spiritual

development, we feel that it solidifies and deepens in the home. We believe this happens through conversations where kids discover God's truth and then learn how to apply it to their lives.

## **The conversation starts at church, but finishes at home**

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As volunteers, your job is to start the conversation. You present the lesson in a compelling way and help kids discover the biblical truths for that week's lesson. But then, your job is to pass off the responsibility to the parents. Every week, make sure to remind both the kids and parents to take their Family Guide home and re-watch the bible lesson video and go through the questions as a family. Repetition is a good thing as it gives kids a chance to really understand the lesson and provides them the opportunity to apply the lessons in a more personal way.

Our world is getting scarier by the day and our culture is moving further and further away from biblical values. We need to equip the next generation to know how to stand for Jesus. In order to ensure that this happens, we need churches to do their part and we need parents to do their part.

### Talk About It

1. *Who had the greatest influence in your spiritual development?*
2. *Why is it important to get parents more involved?*
3. *Why is it important to get families talking about God's word at home?*
4. *What are some ways you can encourage families to use the family guide at home?*

*Congrats! You've finished the training! Now check out the [Teacher Page](#) for the lesson schedule and additional resources.*

# KIDS CHURCH SAFETY POLICY

The first priority of our Kids Church ministry is to create a safe environment for all of our kids and volunteers. With the rising risk of abuse to children in every sector, it is increasingly important that we do everything possible to promote a safe and secure classroom environment. The following policies are to be followed by every volunteer in the church.

1. All adults working with children will agree with and sign this policy form and will submit to a criminal background check. Anyone with a criminal conviction related to a violent or sexual act will not be allowed to work with children. Convictions that don't fall in one of those two categories will be reviewed by the KC leadership on a case by case basis.
2. Ministry settings will be staffed by a minimum of two qualified workers at all times, unless your ministry setting is one large space, subdivided into smaller classrooms. In this case, it is permissible to have one volunteer in the class, so long as the class is visible to other volunteers working in the same area.
3. In any ministry setting, adults are never to be alone with a child/children in a restroom or other enclosed spaces where observation from other responsible volunteers isn't possible.
4. Physical contact with children should be age and individual appropriate, demonstrating the pure and genuine nature of God's love. Inappropriate physical contact includes:
  - Kissing a child or coaxing a child to kiss you.
  - Extended hugging and tickling, or prolonged physical contact of any kind.
  - Touching a child in any area that would be covered by a bathing suit. Exceptions: diaper changing and properly assisting a child in the restroom (see number 5).
  - Carrying an older child or sitting him/her on your lap.
  - Treating a child in a rough manner, including yelling, intimidating, threatening, grabbing the arm firmly, shaking them, sitting them in a chair forcibly, or striking them.
5. Bathroom procedures:
  - Volunteers will encourage parents of pre- 1st grade to take their child to the bathroom before check in.
  - When assisting a child in the restroom, there should be two volunteers present, one assisting the child and the other standing outside of the bathroom stall.
  - If a child needs to use the bathroom during class, the volunteer will notify the Team Leader for assistance. The Team Leader will find a second adult to assist in escorting, clearing the bathroom, and safely returning the child back to class.
6. A security tagging system is used for all children ranging from infant through the 5th grade (unless otherwise specified at your campus). Parents are responsible for following the check in procedures at their campus. The parent must present the parent tag for release of their child. Volunteers are responsible for making sure the child and parent tag or family number are matched before dismissal. Children may only be released from their classroom by a parent or family member over the age of 12.
7. All volunteers working with children 0-18 years of age will immediately report any items of obvious concern regarding suspected child abuse. Volunteers will report such suspected abuse to their KC Team Leader and/or Director. (See policy on reporting suspected abuse).
8. All volunteers working with children will read and agree in writing to the above stated policies.

I have read and agree to the above stated policies.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

\_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Permission to Obtain a Background Check

*(This form authorizes us to obtain background information and must be completed by the applicant. The church must keep this completed form on file for at least two years after requesting a background check.)*

I, the undersigned applicant (also known as "consumer"), authorizes my church, through its independent contractor, to procure background information (also known as a "consumer report and/or investigative consumer report") about me. This report may include my driving history, including any traffic citations; a social security number verification; present and former addresses; criminal and civil history/records; and the state sex offenders records.

I understand that I am entitled to a complete copy of any background information report of which I am the subject upon request to this organization, if such is made within a reasonable time from the date it was produced. I also understand that I may receive a written summary of my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

<b>Print Name</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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**Identifying Information for Background Information Agency  
(Also known as "Consumer Reporting Agency")**

Print Name:

First	Middle	Last
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Current Address:

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Street / P.O. Box	City	State	Zip	County	Dates	

Former Address:

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Street / P.O. Box	City	State	Zip	County	Dates	

Social Security Number: \* \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License Number: \* \_\_\_\_\_ State of Issuance: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gender: M F

Have you ever been arrested and/or charged for a crime of any nature? Yes / No  
If yes, please explain in detail including the place and date of incident:

Have you ever been convicted of a crime involving the abuse, neglect or mistreatment of any person, including a minor? Yes / No  
If yes, please explain in detail including the place and date of incident: *(Use other side for more writing space.)*

Have you ever been accused of or been convicted of child sexual abuse? Yes / No  
If yes, please explain in detail including the place and date of incident: *(Use other side for more writing space.)*

Q10

BIBLE STORYLINE

## Nehemiah The Cupbearer

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Lesson Overview

Today, we're going to learn about a guy named Nehemiah. Nehemiah had a very interesting job. He was a cupbearer. His job was to drink the king's wine to make sure it wasn't poisonous! Think about how scary that job would be. Nehemiah knew that every time he tested the wine, he could die from a poison that was meant to kill the king. The king respected Nehemiah, so when Nehemiah asked him for a favor, the king was willing to grant it. Nehemiah wanted to go back to Jerusalem to help build the wall that had been torn down, just like the temple. A city couldn't be protected from the enemy without a good wall to protect it. So, Nehemiah led a group of men to rebuild the wall. And, while they built the wall, they had to fight off attackers who were trying to hurt them! Nehemiah was very brave. He had to be brave to be a cupbearer and he had to be brave to build a wall while being attacked by the enemy. But, God was with him and protected him. God will protect you, too, so you can be brave.

**Big Idea**

*God wants us to be brave enough to do things his way*

**Key Question**

*How can we be brave for God?*

**Memory Verse**

*Nehemiah 4:14 "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers..."*

### Classroom Agenda

1. (5 min) **PLAY: Let kids start working on Activity Page #1.**
2. (5 min) **WARM UP: Who's the bravest person you know? What's the bravest thing you've ever done?** (Tip: It takes bravery to give a speech or to shoot a free throw. Police and firefighters are brave when they help people who are in danger. God also wants us to be brave and stand up for him. )
3. (5 min) **PREVIEW: Write out the Big Idea, Memory Verse, and Key Question on a whiteboard.** Have the kids copy it down on Activity Page #1 (if applicable).
4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We can live to honor God and be an example for others.** (Your friends might not know God so you need to act in ways that point your friends to Jesus. You do that by being a good example and doing things that honor God. And, it might mean having to be brave and saying "No" to naughty things your friends want you to do but you know you shouldn't.)
  - **Bonus Questions:** How can we be brave for God? How can you stand up for God at school? **4th-5th** Why can it be hard to stand up for God? How can you be a better example to your friends?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?** (Answer: God promises to always be with us. He will protect us and will give us what we need to accomplish our jobs. God will do his part and we have to do our part. We need to stand up for God and be good examples for our friends. We need to be brave and willing to obey God no matter what.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: BUILD THE MEMORY VERSE WALL

### **Instructions:**

- Before class, set out the Memory verse template (page 5-6) and straws on a table in the front of the class.
- As a class, work to get the cards in the right order to say the memory verse.
- Then, invite one kid at a time to help you build a wall using the words and straws to connect them together.
- Keep the words in the right order as you build the wall.
- Remind the kids that Nehemiah had to be brave to build a wall and they can be brave, too.

**Supplies needed:** Card Stock, Memory verse template (pg. 5-6, printed on card stock, pre cut, 1 set per class), Straws (cut in 1.5 in. sections with a slit cut on the ends to hold the paper in place.)

## OPTION 2: NEHEMIAH THE CUPBEARER CRAFT

### **Instructions:**

- Give each kid a Cup template (page 7).
- Have kids cut out the cup and box. Have them color and decorate their cup, first. Then, have them glue the box that says, "Nehemiah the cupbearer" at the bottom base of the cup.
- As they work, remind the kids that they can be brave like Nehemiah.

**Supplies needed:** Cup template (pg. 7, 1 per kid), Crayons, Scissors, Glue

Q10

BIBLE STORYLINE

# Nehemiah the Cupbearer

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Memory Verse

Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers... **Nehemiah 4:14**

## The \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem Needed a Big Fix

You might be thinking, it's just a silly wall. Why does it matter? Well in the Old Testament days walls were really important. If your city didn't have a wall, it was in big trouble. The wall protected the people in the city from being attacked by bad people. It's kind of the same as a football player's helmet and shoulder pads. It keeps them safe. So, what were the people supposed to do fix the wall?

## God Used a Cupbearer Named \_\_\_\_\_ to Fix the Wall

Have you ever heard of a cupbearer before? It's not a bear that likes cups. That's just weird. No, it was the guy who drank the wine before the king did to make sure that it wasn't poisonous. Do you think you could do a job like that? It would definitely take a guy who is really brave. And Nehemiah was that guy.

## The Builders Had to Use \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, you heard that right, they used swords. Not to actually fix the wall, but to protect the people who were working. They were being attacked while they were trying to rebuild the wall, and it was really scary. So, Nehemiah cheered the workers on.

**Nehemiah 4:14** Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers...

## God Wants Us to Be \_\_\_\_\_ Enough to Do Things His Way

Think about how scary it must have been to try and fix the wall while they were surrounded by bad guys. Do you think you would be brave enough to do that? You might think you aren't, but with God you can be! With God you can be brave enough to help a kid who is being picked on, or to do what you know is right when everyone else is doing what is wrong, or to tell people all about how much God loves them.

Answers: Wall, Nehemiah, Shovels, Swords, Brave    Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Who's the bravest person you know? Why? What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
3. Why was the wall important to Jerusalem?
4. Who did God put in charge of building the wall? What was Nehemiah's job?
5. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?



**Instructions:** Color the picture.

GOD WANTS US TO  
BE BRAVE  
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THINGS HIS WAY

**Key Question**

*How can we be brave for God?*

**Memory Verse**

*Nehemiah 4:14 "Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers..."*





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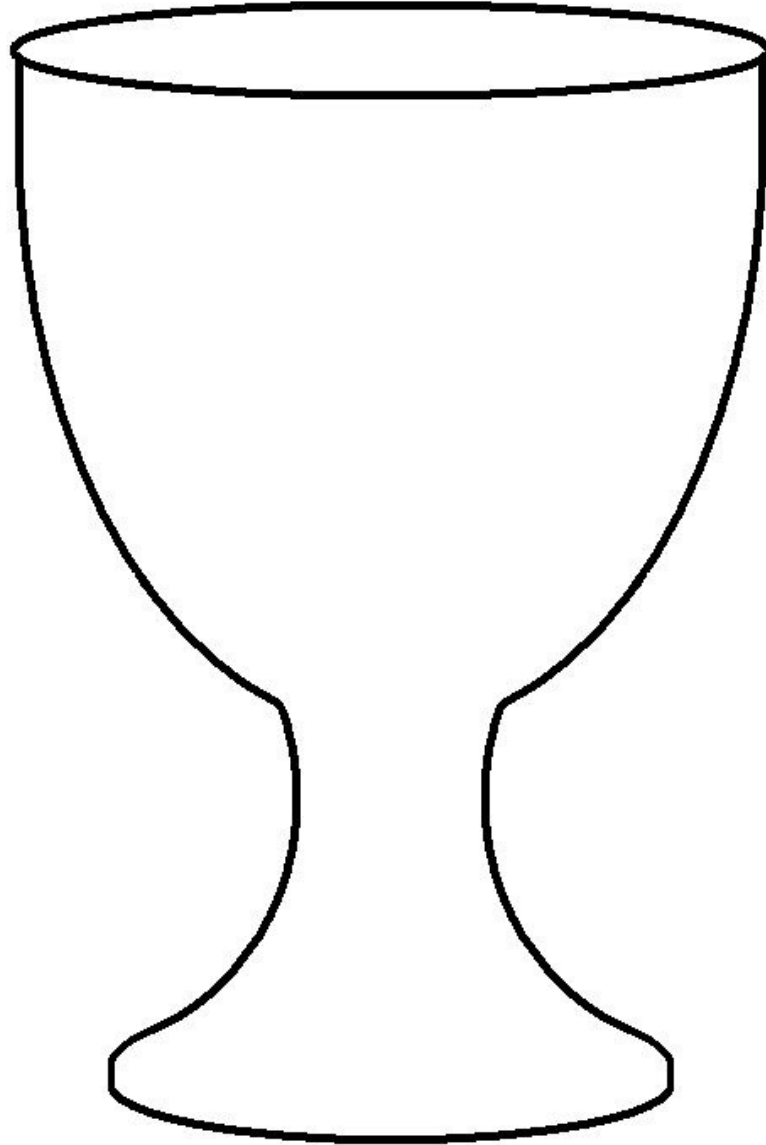
FOR YOUR

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4:14



[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)



NEHEMIAH THE  
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Q10

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### Classroom Agenda

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- (5 min) WARM UP: Who's the bravest person you know? What's the bravest thing you've ever done?** (Tip: It takes bravery to give a speech or to shoot a free throw. Police and firefighters are brave when they help people who are in danger. God also wants us to be brave and stand up for him. )
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  - Bonus Questions:** How can we be brave for God? How can you stand up for God at school? **4th-5th** Why can it be hard to stand up for God? How can you be a better example to your friends?
- (5 min) EXPLORE: Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?** (Answer: God promises to always be with us. He will protect us and will give us what we need to accomplish our jobs. God will do his part and we have to do our part. We need to stand up for God and be good examples for our friends. We need to be brave and willing to obey God no matter what.)
- (10 min) PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
- (5 min) CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: BUILD THE MEMORY VERSE WALL

**Instructions:**

- Divide the class into groups of 4.
- Give each group a set of Memory verse words (page 5-6) and some straws.
- When you say "Go!", have teams race to get their words in the right order to say the memory verse and then have them build a wall by creatively using the straws to connect the words together.
- Once teams are done, have them show the rest of the class the creative wall they made.

**Supplies needed:** Card stock, Memory verse template (pg. 5-6, printed on card stock, pre cut, 1 set per group), Straws (cut in 1.5 in. sections with slits cut into the ends to hold the paper in place)

## OPTION 2: NEHEMIAH THE CUPBEARER CRAFT

**Instructions:**

- Give each kid a Cup template (page 7).
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Q10

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## God Wants Us to Be \_\_\_\_\_ Enough to Do Things His Way

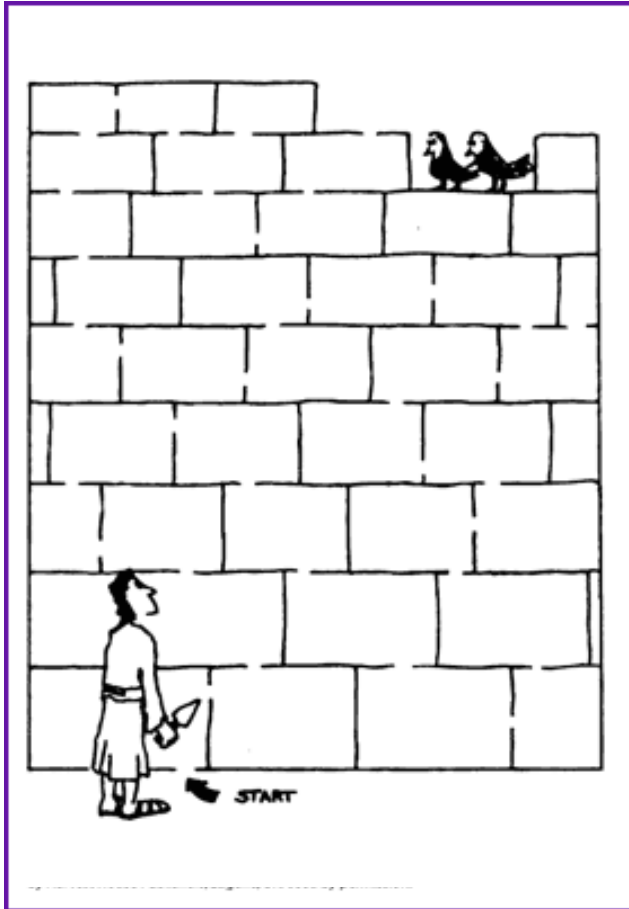
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Answers: Wall, Nehemiah, Shovels, Swords, Brave    Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Who's the bravest person you know? Why? What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
3. Why was the wall important to Jerusalem?
4. Who did God put in charge of building the wall? What was Nehemiah's job?
5. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

**Instructions:** Solve the puzzle and color the picture.



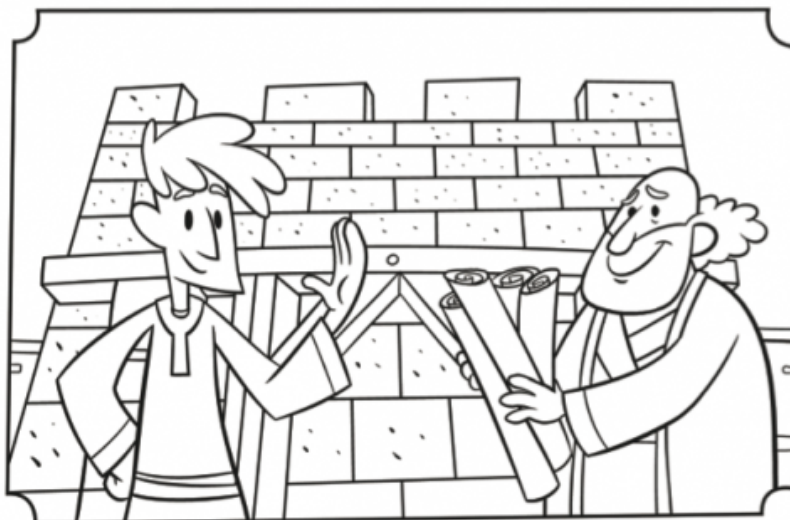
**Big Idea**

**Key Question**

**Memory Verse**

Nehemiah 4:\_\_\_ "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ of the enemy!

Remember the \_\_\_\_\_, who is \_\_\_\_\_ and glorious, and fight for \_\_\_\_\_ brothers..."



Nehemiah became the governor of the Israelites and Ezra became the priest. - **Nehemiah 5**





DON'T BE	THE LORD
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OF THE ENEMY!	GREAT AND
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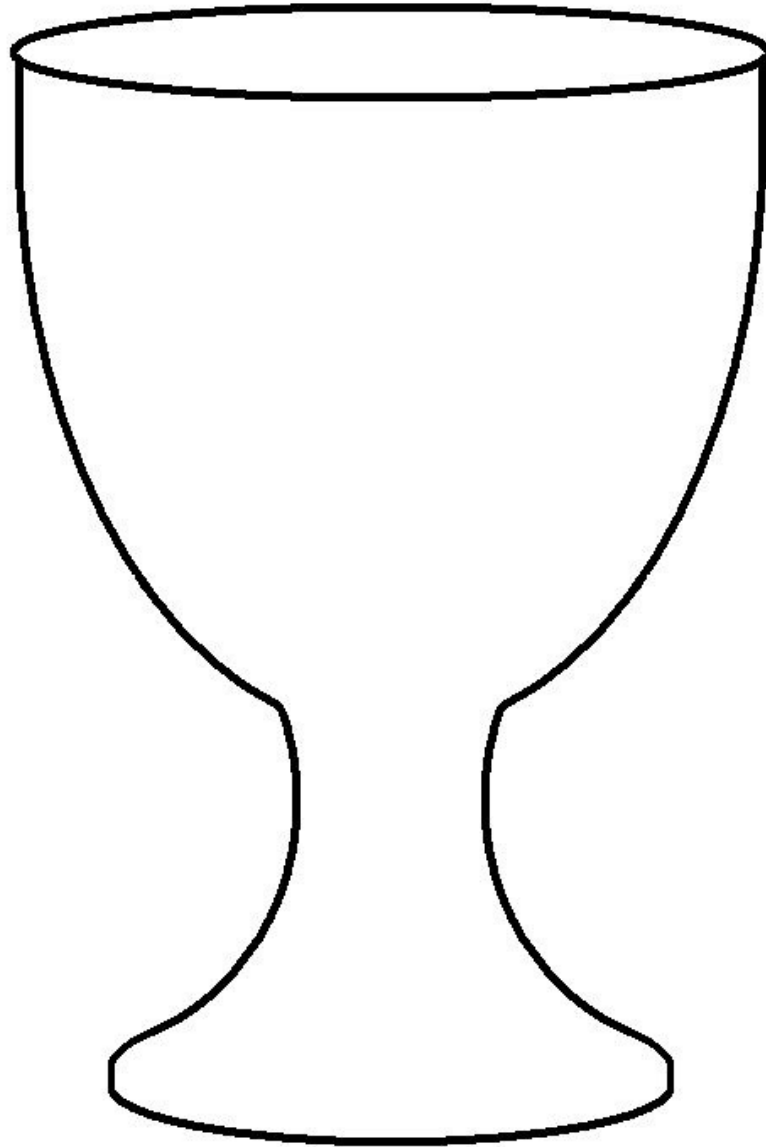
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4. (20 min) **LARGE GROUP: Gather for songs and videos with other kids.** Then return to class to finish this guide.
5. (2 min) **RECAP: Read the Lesson Overview (see above).**
6. (3 min) **KQ: Answer the Key Question.** (Answer: **We can live to honor God and be an example for others.** (Your friends might not know God so you need to act in ways that point your friends to Jesus. You do that by being a good example and doing things that honor God. And, it might mean having to be brave and saying "No" to naughty things your friends want you to do but you know you shouldn't.)
  - **Bonus Questions:** How can we be brave for God? How can you stand up for God at school? **4th-5th** Why can it be hard to stand up for God? How can you be a better example to your friends?
7. (5 min) **EXPLORE: Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?** (Answer: God promises to always be with us. He will protect us and will give us what we need to accomplish our jobs. God will do his part and we have to do our part. We need to stand up for God and be good examples for our friends. We need to be brave and willing to obey God no matter what.)
8. (10 min) **PLAY: Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.**
9. (5 min) **CLOSE: Share prayer requests and pray as a class.** Encourage kids to use the Family Guide at home with their parents - and remind them to go online to [pursueGOD.org/kids](http://pursueGOD.org/kids) to find this week's lesson video.

**Teacher instructions:** Choose an activity for your classroom.

## OPTION 1: BUILD THE MEMORY VERSE WALL

**Instructions:**

- Divide the class into groups of 4.
- Give each group a set of Memory verse words (page 5-6) and some straws.
- When you say "Go!", have teams race to get their words in the right order to say the memory verse and then have them build a wall by creatively using the straws to connect the words together.
- Once teams are done, have them show the rest of the class the creative wall they made.

**Supplies needed:** Card stock, Memory verse template (pg. 5-6, printed on card stock, pre cut, 1 set per group), Straws (cut in 1.5 in. sections, with slits cut into the ends to hold the paper in place)

## OPTION 2: MEMORY VERSE GAME

**Instructions:**

- Divide the class into teams of 4.
- Give each group a set of Memory verse words (page 5-6).
- Have them place the cards face down on the floor. When you say, "Go!", have teams race to get the words in the correct order. First team to do it correctly, wins.

**Supplies needed:** Memory verse template (pg. 5-6, pre cut, 1 set per group)

Q10

BIBLE STORYLINE

# Nehemiah the Cupbearer

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Memory Verse

Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers... **Nehemiah 4:14**

## The \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem Needed a Big Fix

You might be thinking, it's just a silly wall. Why does it matter? Well in the Old Testament days walls were really important. If your city didn't have a wall, it was in big trouble. The wall protected the people in the city from being attacked by bad people. It's kind of the same as a football player's helmet and shoulder pads. It keeps them safe. So, what were the people supposed to do fix the wall?

## God Used a Cupbearer Named \_\_\_\_\_ to Fix the Wall

Have you ever heard of a cupbearer before? It's not a bear that likes cups. That's just weird. No, it was the guy who drank the wine before the king did to make sure that it wasn't poisonous. Do you think you could do a job like that? It would definitely take a guy who is really brave. And Nehemiah was that guy.

## The Builders Had to Use \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, you heard that right, they used swords. Not to actually fix the wall, but to protect the people who were working. They were being attacked while they were trying to rebuild the wall, and it was really scary. So, Nehemiah cheered the workers on.

**Nehemiah 4:14** Don't be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious, and fight for your brothers...

## God Wants Us to Be \_\_\_\_\_ Enough to Do Things His Way

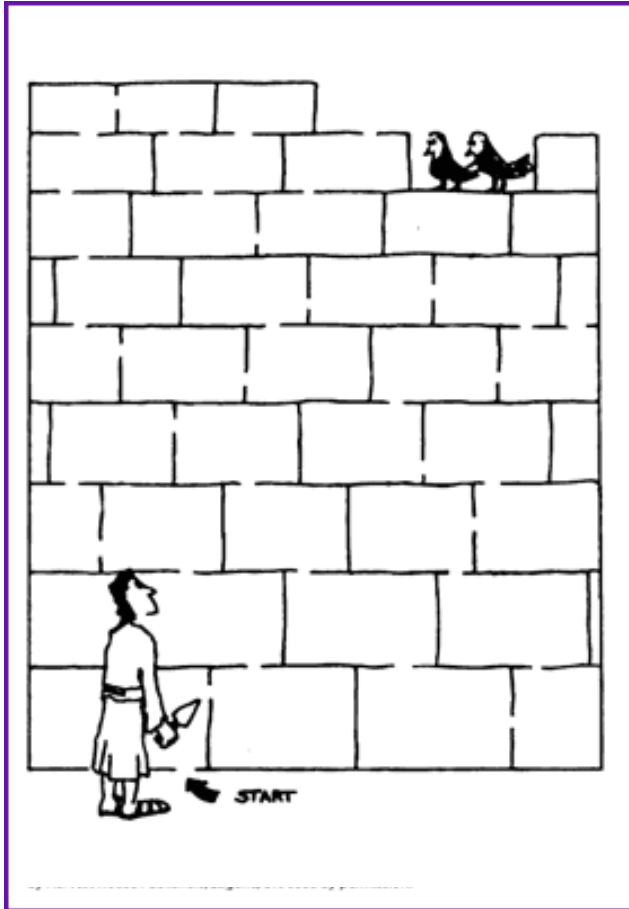
Think about how scary it must have been to try and fix the wall while they were surrounded by bad guys. Do you think you would be brave enough to do that? You might think you aren't, but with God you can be! With God you can be brave enough to help a kid who is being picked on, or to do what you know is right when everyone else is doing what is wrong, or to tell people all about how much God loves them.

Answers: Wall, Nehemiah, Shovels, Swords, Brave    Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the video? What is one thing you learned from the video?
2. Who's the bravest person you know? Why? What's the bravest thing you've ever done?
3. Why was the wall important to Jerusalem?
4. Who did God put in charge of building the wall? What was Nehemiah's job?
5. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. Who will never leave us or forget about us? How can you be strong and courageous in your life?
6. How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?

**Instructions:** Solve the puzzle and color the picture.



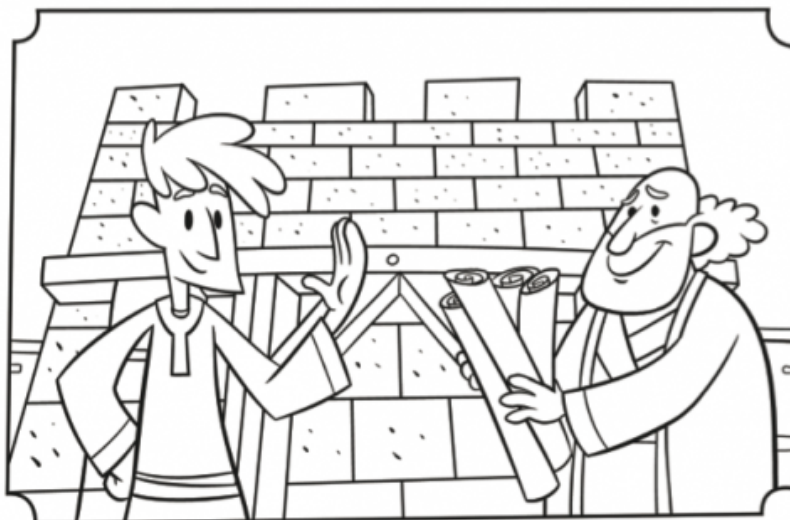
**Big Idea**

**Key Question**

**Memory Verse**

Nehemiah 4:\_\_\_ "Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ of the enemy!

Remember the \_\_\_\_\_, who is \_\_\_\_\_ and glorious, and fight for \_\_\_\_\_ brothers..."



Nehemiah became the governor of the Israelites and Ezra became the priest. - **Nehemiah 5**



DON'T BE

THE LORD

AFRAID

WHO IS

OF THE  
ENEMY!

GREAT AND

REMEMBER

GLORIOUS



AND FIGHT

BROTHERS

FOR YOUR

NEHEMIAH

4:14

Q10

BIBLE STORYLINE

# Nehemiah The Cupbearer

[PursueGOD.org](http://PursueGOD.org)

## Slide: Welcome

*(Start kid's countdown once all classes are present.) The*

Hey kids! Welcome to Kid's Church. I'm so glad you could be here today.

## Slide: Series Intro

Before we get into our lesson today, let's take a few minutes to think about some jobs that require a person to be very brave. (allow kids to respond). Those are some great ones. Think about how brave a firefighter has to be to go into a burning building while everyone else is running out of it! Or, think about how brave people are in the military who fight enemies to keep us safe. Today, we're going to talk about a guy named Nehemiah and he had a job where he had to be brave, too.

We'll get to that in a few minutes. But first, let's stand and sing a song together.

## Song

*Put Your Hands Up*

Good job! I think God loves hearing all your voices praising him! Now let's say our Big Idea together.

## Slide: Big Idea

*All together:*

*God wants us to be brave enough to do things his way. (Repeat)*

## Video

*Play lesson video.*

## Slide: Recap

So, what did we learn from the video today? Let's review...

- Who did we learn about today? (Nehemiah)
- What was Nehemiah's job? (cupbearer)
- True or False: God wants you to be brave. (T)

Nehemiah had a scary job. He was a cupbearer. That meant he had to drink the king's wine to make sure it wasn't poisonous. Back then, bad guys would try to kill the king by trying to poison them. So, cupbearers would drink the wine, first, to make sure it was safe for the king to drink. Think about how brave a cupbearer would have to be! Every time they tasted the wine, they knew they might die if it contained poison. But that was the job. Now, Nehemiah's story is about more than his job as a cupbearer. But, God chose to use him because Nehemiah was brave. God told Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to help build a wall that would protect the city. This was a dangerous job because, while Nehemiah was trying to build the wall, he had to also fight off the enemy who was trying to attack them!

That reminds me of our memory verse. Let's all stand and say it together.

### **Slide: Memory Verse**

"Don't (shake head no) be afraid of the enemy! Remember (point to head) the Lord (point up), who is great and glorious, and fight (fists up ready to punch) for your brothers." Nehemiah 4:14 *(Repeat)*

This verse contains a very important message both for Nehemiah, his workers and for us. God will ask us to do things that will require us to be brave. We need to be ready and remember that God will help us to accomplish the task. God is bigger and stronger than anyone so he will help us to conquer any challenge.

Now let's all stand and sing one last song together.

### **Song**

*I'm all in*

Okay, let's all say the Big Idea together one last time!

### **Slide: Big Idea**

God wants us to be brave enough to do things his way. *(Repeat)*

### **Slide: Let's Pray**

*Pray and dismiss.*