

NEHEMIAH

BUILDING
MINISTRY
TOGETHER

Lesson 1: Nehemiah 1:5-11 Ministry Through Prayer

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

This week is going to be as fun for you as it will be for the kids. Praying with kids can be both an adventure and a blessing. Spend some time in prayer this week before you lead the lesson. Pray for the children you'll be leading. Nehemiah knew that his strength was in the Lord alone.

Use this time as people are arriving for the kids to get comfortable with each other and settled in so that Mom and Dad can enjoy small group.

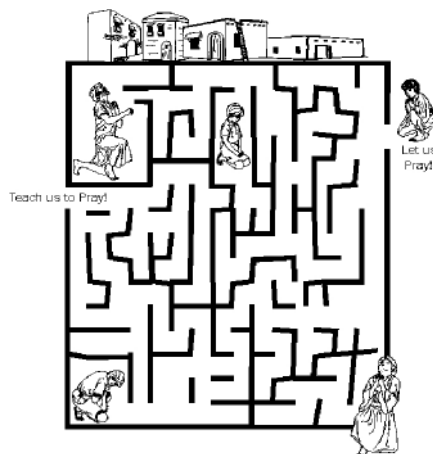
Bible Lesson Activities 20 Min



Activity 1: Walk the Line This week we're learning that prayer is aligning our thoughts and wills with God's through talking to God. Have kids put pillows (or pieces of paper, or draw on the ground with chalk if you are outside) in a straight line across the room. Have one child close their eyes (or use a blindfold) while the other talks to them and leads them down the line of pillows. Have the children take turns leading each other. After all of the kids have had a turn, let them lead you down the line.

Activity 2: Prayer is AMAZING

Like a maze? It's hard at first, but once you make it the first time, you know the path better and better the next time (finding/ knowing/aligning with God's will and purpose). Print the attached maze and allow kids to work on finding their way through. As they finish have them try again and see how much easier it is to see the path the second time! Go over the ALIGN model for prayer.



Activity 3: "Can You Hear Me Now?" Role Play When we talk to God, we need to know what He said to us first! Pick two students that can read to role play. Pass out the attached scripts and let them read.

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have a small snack for the kids like pretzels or cheerios to help encourage quiet mouths and listening ears. Pray and thank God for allowing us to talk to Him through prayer. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read Nehemiah 1:5-11 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

5 I said, "I beseech You, O LORD God of heaven, the great and awesome God, who preserves the covenant and loving kindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, 6 let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant which I am praying before You now, day and night, on behalf of the sons of Israel Your servants, confessing the sins of the sons of Israel which we have sinned against You; I and my father's house have sinned. 7" We have acted very corruptly against You and have not kept the commandments, nor the statutes, nor the ordinances which You commanded Your servant Moses. 8" Remember the word which You commanded Your servant Moses, saying, 'If you are unfaithful I will scatter you among the peoples; 9 but if you return to Me and keep My commandments and do them, though those of you who have been scattered were in the most remote part of the heavens, I will gather them from there and will bring them to the place where I have chosen to cause My name to dwell.' 10 "They are Your servants and Your people whom You redeemed by Your great power and by Your strong hand. 11 "O Lord, I beseech You, may Your ear be attentive to the prayer of Your servant and the prayer of Your servants who delight to revere Your name, and make Your servant successful today and grant him compassion before this man " Now I was the cupbearer to the king.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. When you need help, who do you ask? (*talk to mommy/daddy about it*) **What is praying? What are you doing when you pray?** (*kids perspective*) **When you talk to God, did you know that there is something more important to God than the problem you might have?** *He wants us to fix our hearts so we'll be more like Him.*

PRAYER = Aligning our perceptions and wills with God's through the art of conversation. **KID Def: Talking to God so we'll think like He thinks, and want what He wants.**

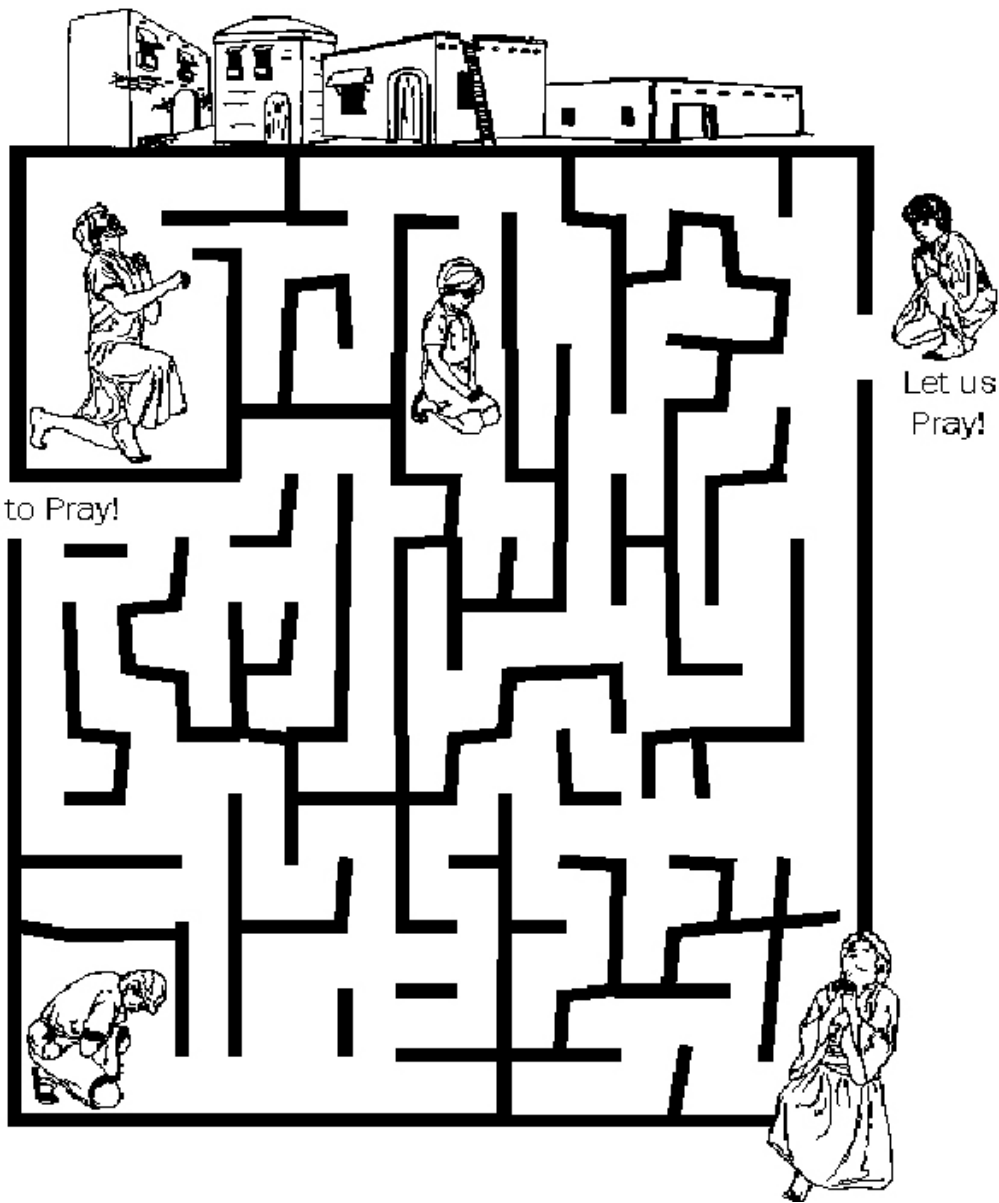
"let Your ear now be attentive and Your eyes open to hear the prayer of Your servant..." Nehemiah 1:6a

Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Point out the capital letters in the word "Your" from your memory verse. Make sure the kids know that it is God Nehemiah is talking to!

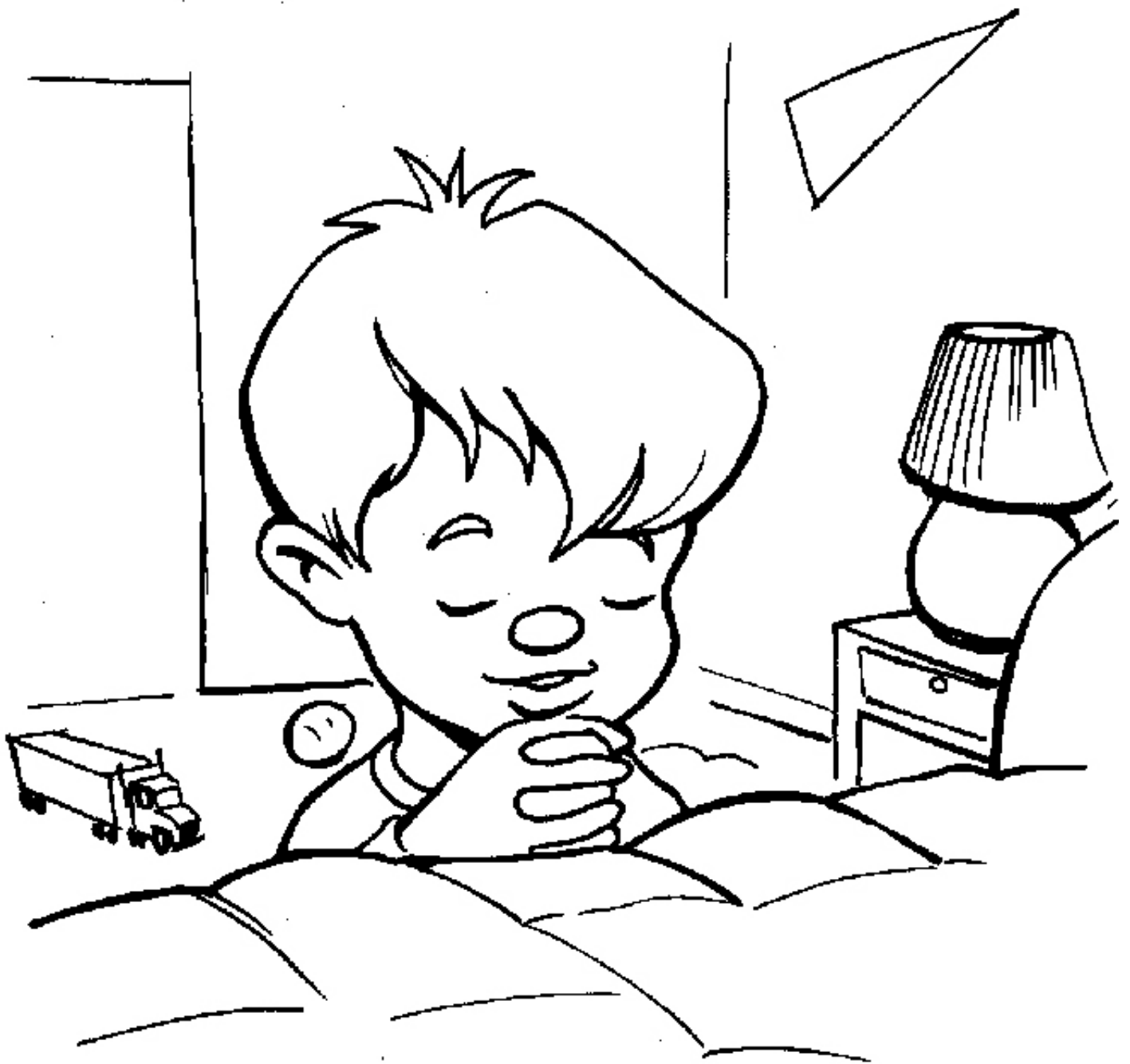
Closing/Clean Up 5 Min

Clean up and make sure everyone has shoes on, coloring sheets in hand and everything is put back in the room. Praise God for a wonderful group of young people!



ALIGN

- A**ffection – know that God is good and strong and will always do what He says
- L**ower self – know that you are weak
- I**nspect and confess – see where you are weak
- G**ratITUDE – know that God said, “I am always with you and I know what I’m doing”
- N**eed – ask for help because you know God is strong and always with you



**LET YOUR EAR NOW BE ATTENTIVE
AND YOUR EYES OPEN TO HEAR THE
PRAYER OF YOUR SERVANT..."**
NEHEMIAH 1:6A

When someone says something to you and promises something to you, you don't respond as if you didn't hear it do you?

If your daddy says, "Hey kids, we're going on a trip to Disney World!" would you say, "Oh, I love chicken nuggets"?? No! You would say, "Yay! I love Disney World!"

You have to trust that he knows how to get there and how much it costs, so you can have fun, right? He knows that you'll need a drink and something to eat when you get there and where to sleep!

He will know these things, but you may not even think of them!

God knows things you do not know. He has also written His Bible for us so we can know the things He wants us to know.

You can trust what He has told you about your life because you trust that He knows things you do not know.

When you pray for something (or someone), trust God. He has told you lots of things in His word. You don't even have to ask Him to "go on the trip" with you. He already told you He is!

Example #2:

Person 1: I'm going to go on a trip and I'm pretty nervous about it.

Person 2: Hey, don't worry! I am going to come with you. I have paid for all of your expenses and I'm going to make sure you have the energy to do what you need to do.

Person 1: I'm just not sure if I am going to make it. Will you come with me and help me do what I need to do?

Person 2: Didn't you get my letter explaining everything? I'm going to come with you. Everything is paid. I even mentioned that I've done this many times before for others, giving you an example. I know what you need.

Person 1: Yeah, I got it. I actually have several copies. Please, at least give me one or two things for my trip. I'll understand if you can't give me everything.

Person 2: -Sigh- I think you should read my letter again.