

# NEHEMIAH

BUILDING  
MINISTRY  
TOGETHER

## Lesson 3: Nehemiah 2:1-8 Building Ministry Through Planning

### Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

Planning can make or break your teaching time! We've all had those times that we've shown up without a plan and fumbled the lesson all the way through wishing that we'd spent a bit more time preparing. On the other hand there have been times when nothing we'd planned worked! Today we're going to teach our kids the power of planning and how that fits in with faith in God!

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: Get Ready for a Trip** Our scripture this week focuses on Nehemiah's plan he had ready to share with the King. Today your kids will go on a sailing adventure. In order to get ready you first need a map! Print your map and have kids color as you get ready for your adventure!

**Activity 2: Prepare for Adventure** What will your trip need? Do you need a boat to travel over water or camels to carry you over land? Start working out the details of your trip with your kids as you imagine the great adventure you're about to embark upon! Use what you have in your room to create a ship, bus, or camel train to use in your adventure! Pray for your trip before you go! Have fun on your adventure as you use your map and other pretend navigation devices to help you along your way.

**Activity 3: Tweak as Needed** Our job is to plan and God will direct our steps. As you are playing your adventure throw in some obstacles that require your plan to be "tweaked." If your sailing to your destination, make the wind stop blowing or your boat run ashore and now you must travel on land. Keep the playing going as you add twists and turns to your adventures and see how your adventurers respond!

### 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 directing our steps and using our plans to work in His great plan. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

## Read Nehemiah 2:1-8 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

1 And it came about in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, that wine was before him, and I took up the wine and gave it to the king. Now I had not been sad in his presence. 2 So the king said to me, "Why is your face sad though you are not sick? This is nothing but sadness of heart." Then I was very much afraid. 3 I said to the king, "Let the king live forever Why should my face not be sad when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, lies desolate and its gates have been consumed by fire?" 4 Then the king said to me, "What would you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven. 5 I said to the king, "If it please the king, and if your servant has found favor before you, send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." 6 Then the king said to me, the queen sitting beside him, "How long will your journey be, and when will you return?" So it pleased the king to send me, and I gave him a definite time. 7 And I said to the king, "If it please the king, let letters be given me for the governors of the provinces beyond the River, that they may allow me to pass through until I come to Judah, 8 and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for the gates of the fortress which is by the temple, for the wall of the city and for the house to which I will go " And the king granted them to me because the good hand of my God was on me.

**Discuss with the children what the verses mean.** Last week we saw how Nehemiah responded to his problem. **What did he do?** *He prayed.* This week our verse shows us how God answered Nehemiah's prayer! **Did Nehemiah just sit around and wait for God's answer?** *No. He was very patient. It had been almost four months since he had prayed first for his people.* He continued to pray and seek God, but he also began to plan for when God said YES! **What did Nehemiah do when the King asked what Nehemiah wanted?** *He prayed a quick prayer.* **Was Nehemiah's plan detailed or random?** *It was detailed. He knew the guys names that were in charge of the King's land beyond the river and the keeper of the King's forest!*

It is important for us to plan the ministry God is preparing us for. He will most likely adjust our path to fit His will! Let's memorize a verse to help us remember that God is the greatest planner!

**"The mind of man plans his way,  
But the LORD directs his steps. " Proverbs 16:9**

## Coloring Sheet 10 Min

Pass out the memory verse coloring sheets and have children color them. As you color repeat the verse several times to help the words sink in!

## 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!

# ADVENTURE MAP





THE MIND OF MAN PLANS HIS WAY,  
BUT THE LORD DIRECTS HIS STEPS.

PROVERBS 16:9