



NEHEMIAH

BUILDING
MINISTRY
TOGETHER

Lesson 14: Nehemiah 9:38-10:39 Building Ministry Through Covenant

Welcome and Play Time 10 Min

A covenant is an agreement, usually formal, between two or more persons to do or not do something specified. While doctrine is a summary of what we believe, a covenant is a summary of how we behave. It is important to note that as we have seen the Israelites journey through rebuilding the wall to restore worship of God in the temple, they do their homework on what that really means. They looked into what the festival of the booths was all about, found their worship lacking, confessed their sin of forgetfulness, and are now recommitting themselves to the Lord.

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: Guard. The Israelites committed to guarding their families from the unbelieving nations around them. As kids, you don't have children yet to guard! You can guard your heart though! This means guard who you hang out with, guard what you watch on TV, guard what books you read, guard the games you play on the computer, and guard what comes out of your mouth.

In soccer there is a goalie that guard's his goal. Your goal as followers of Christ is to keep your life pure. Give each person 10 mini marshmallows and a plastic cup. Have children sit in a circle. When you say go, have children attempt to throw their marshmallows in each other's cup. At the end of 3 minutes, whoever has the smallest number of marshmallows left in their cup wins!

Activity 2: Gather. The next commitment the Israelites made was to not stop gathering together, and to keep their gathering honoring to the Lord. We meet together on Sunday mornings at church and Wednesday nights for small group. This is fellowship with other believers and God thinks it is very important.

Have kids walk around the room randomly. When they hear the word "fellowship" everyone should quickly walk together. Have kids separate and walk around the room, then allow another child to call for "fellowship". Allow kids to take turns being the caller and each time the word "fellowship" called, everyone in the room "gathers" together.

Activity 3: Give. Did you know that everything that we have is really God's? God gives us everything we have: our money, our time, our talents and our treasures. It is important to give those things back to God. Talk about several ways you can give to the Lord

Bible Reading Time & Scripture Memory 10 Min

Have children stand to honor the reading of God's Word. Pray and thank God for giving us His Word. Read the Word straight through and then give yourself time to discuss after you've read the whole passage.

Read Nehemiah 10:28-32 (NASB) Read from a Bible if you have one available

28Now the rest of the people, the priests, the Levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants and all those who had separated themselves from the peoples of the lands to the law of God, their wives, their sons and their daughters, all those who had knowledge and understanding, 29are joining with their kinsmen, their nobles, and are taking on themselves a curse and an oath to walk in God's law, which was given through Moses, God's servant, and to keep and to observe all the commandments of GOD our Lord, and His ordinances and His statutes; 30and that we will not give our daughters to the peoples of the land or take their daughters for our sons. 31As for the peoples of the land who bring wares or any grain on the sabbath day to sell, we will not buy from them on the sabbath or a holy day; and we will forego the crops the seventh year and the exaction of every debt. 32We also placed ourselves under obligation to contribute yearly one third of a shekel for the service of the house of our God.

Discuss with the children what the verses mean. The Israelites had read the law (the Bible they had at the time) and they are now committing to follow God's law. **Who was making this commitment?** (*all of the people: the priests, the levites, the gatekeepers, the singers, the temple servants, and everyone who had separated themselves*). **Who were they joining with?** (*their kinsmen, their nobles - their fellow believers*). **What was God's law that was given to Moses?** (*the ten commandments*). **What were they committing to do?** (*guard their families from unbelief, gather together, give of their money, time, talents, and treasures*).

When the people heard the truth, they confessed their sins and then put it in writing that they would obey the Lord. This is a great example of how we should live our lives.

Let's memorize this week's verse:

**Commit your works to the LORD and your plans will be established.
Proverbs 16:3**

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!



**COMMIT YOUR WORKS
TO THE LORD AND YOUR PLANS
WILL BE ESTABLISHED.
PROVERBS 16:3**