Theme: Bible Heroes
Lesson: Nehemiah – Willing to Work
Lesson Text: Nehemiah 1:11
December 3, 2017

Teacher Preparation
Readings: Nehemiah 1:3-11; Nehemiah 2:4-9
Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God will use us if we will be willing to work for Him.
Materials: Bible, apples (or items to stack)
Memory Verse: “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8).

Lesson Summary
Have you ever had to do a job that seemed impossible? (Give students time to respond with examples of difficult tasks). If you had not tried to accomplish the job, what might have happened? God wants us to be ready to work in order to accomplish great things for Him. But we have to be willing, rely on God, and put forth an effort to do what He wants us to do. Nehemiah is a great example of a willing worker for the Lord, who had – what would seem to us – an impossible task he wanted to complete. He received word that the wall of Jerusalem was broken down and the gates were burned with fire (Nehemiah 1:3). This troubled Nehemiah. So he began to pray confessing the sins of Israel and asking for favor upon him, for he was willing to rebuild the city that had been destroyed. Building a wall around an entire city seems difficult to you, right? Nehemiah didn’t give thought to how hard the task was or how impossible it was going to be. Nehemiah began to rely fully on God for instructions on how to begin this difficult task as he gathered materials and made preparations to rebuild. God also has a job for each of us to do. Like Nehemiah, we must be willing to say “yes,” pray for God’s help, and then put God’s plan into action.

Bible Point: God uses willing workers.

Ideas to Illuminate:
Have apples or objects scattered on the ground and allow students to take turns gathering the objects and trying to stack them in an allotted amount of time. Make time short enough to give the idea that gathering materials and building is challenging, but possible.

Questions for Class Discussion:
4. What are some jobs God might want us to do today?
5. What action can you take to begin working for the Lord?
6. Who should we depend on?

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Lesson Text: Nehemiah 2:17-18

December 10, 2017

Lesson Summary

Has anyone ever played a team sport or watched a sporting event on television? Does everyone do the same thing when playing? (Allow students to reply). Of course not! Each team member has a certain job to do in order for the team as a whole to be successful. It also takes teamwork in order to be successful for God. Nehemiah knew God did not expect him to work alone when he set out to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. God gave Nehemiah a plan that required many people to work together. After Nehemiah told the Jewish people how Jerusalem had been destroyed, he asked them to rebuild the wall with him. Realizing God's favor was upon Nehemiah, the people replied, “Let us rise up and build” (Nehemiah 2:18). Different people built certain sections of the wall, but everyone's job was equally important in order for the entire wall to be joined together. God has a job for each of us, and there are many jobs to be done. God does not want one person to work alone but wants us to work together toward the same goal of building His church. Who's ready to work together on God's team?

Bible Point:
God wants us to work together.

Ideas to Illuminate:
Prior to class, write the key verse in large letters on a piece of paper. Cut the paper into different shaped pieces to form a puzzle with the Bible verse. Give each student a piece of the puzzle and have them work together to complete the puzzle without help from the teacher. Talk about the importance of working together, and review the lesson while students work.

Questions for Class Discussion:
1. When we are working for God, does He want us to work alone?
2. Who does God want us to work with?
3. Why do you think God wants us to work together and not alone?
Theme: Bible Heroes
Lesson: Nehemiah – Never Give Up
Lesson Text: Nehemiah 4:4-6
December 17, 2017

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 4:1-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that working for God requires prayer and perseverance.

Materials: Blindfold, and objects to make an obstacle course

Memory Verse: “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Timothy 2:3).

Lesson Summary

When trying to complete a task, there are sometimes obstacles that make the task difficult to finish. Maybe when working on homework, your brother or sister starts aggravating you. Or while playing a video game, someone stands in front of the television. Have you ever been distracted from what you were doing? When Nehemiah and the Jewish people were rebuilding the wall, there were distractions the whole time they worked. There was a group of people who mocked them, despised them, and even tried to fight them to hinder their progress on the wall. The Jewish people could have stopped the project because it was too dangerous or too hard, but they didn't. They put their confidence in the Lord and took their problems to Him in prayer. God revealed to them the enemy's plan to come in among them to fight. The Jewish people prepared themselves to fight, and they continued to work hard toward the completion of the wall. The people did not let distractions stop the rebuilding. But through prayer, perseverance, and hard work, the wall was completed in just fifty-two days. What can we learn from these builders in Nehemiah's day? As we work for the Lord, we will face the same kinds of challenges. People will despise us, mock us, and may even want to fight us. We must not allow these obstacles to stop us from continuing to work for God. When the going gets tough, we must pray to God for help and continue to work, because we serve an awesome God who will fight for us! If God is on our side, who can be against us?

Bible Point: Don't give up!

Ideas to Illuminate:

Arrange objects such as chairs, boxes, etc. to create an obstacle course. Have students take turns being blindfolded while the teacher gives directions to guide the student around the objects to complete the course. Reinforce the point that while working for the Lord we will face opposition, but we must be listening to the Lord's voice for direction while reaching our goal of heaven.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What should we do when distractions come our way?
2. Who should we rely on when being a Christian isn't easy?
Les: Worship the King

Lesson Text: Matthew 2:1-11

December 24, 2017

Lesson Summary

Often, when we think about Jesus, we think about the man who did miracles or who died and rose again. But he came into this world as a baby. Although only a baby, he was still a King. He was born the Son of God and the Savior of the world. When Jesus was born, Wise Men travelled from the east bringing precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Arriving in Jerusalem, they asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Mt. 2:2). When they were sent to Bethlehem to search for Jesus, they again saw his star and rejoiced (vv. 8-10). The star actually led them to Jesus. When they found him, the Wise Men came into the house, fell down, and worshipped Jesus, presenting unto him their precious gifts (v. 11). What can you give to Jesus this Christmas? You can give Jesus a gift that is even more precious than gold. The most precious gift that you can give to Jesus is your life. Jesus wants each one of us to worship him. Will you worship Jesus? Have you given your life to him? Let's worship Jesus by inviting him into our hearts as our personal Lord and Savior. Note: Teachers should close out the class, praying with their students.

Bible Point: I will worship Jesus.

Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity #1: Draw a line down the middle of a poster board (whiteboard, chalkboard). On one side, list the following key points about the Wise Men: 1) they searched for Jesus (vv. 1-2, 8); 2) they rejoiced (vv. 9-10); 3) they fell down and worshipped (v. 11); and 4) they presented gifts to Jesus (v. 11). Now, referring to each point, ask the students to explain how we worship Jesus today. For example, 1) they searched; we read our Bible and pray. 2) They rejoiced; we sing, clap our hands, shout, and praise the Lord. 3) They fell down and worshipped; we kneel at an altar and lift our hands in prayer. 4) They gave gifts; we give money to the church and use our talents for the church.

Activity #2: Give each child a piece of paper, and ask him to draw one way that he worships Jesus.

Question for Class Discussion:

What is your favorite part of being in a worship service?
Theme: Bible Heroes  
Lesson: Nehemiah – Importance of Leadership  
Lesson Text: Nehemiah 5:6-13  
December 31, 2017

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Nehemiah 5:1-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God uses people to be great leaders for Him.

Materials: Paper, crayons or colored markers

Memory Verse: “. . . but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

Lesson Summary

Do you know what a leader is? Leaders are very important people who influence and help guide others. What characteristics come to mind when you think of what a leader should be? (Allow each student to brainstorm leadership characteristics on a piece of paper and share thoughts.) Pastors and teachers are just a couple of examples of leaders. God uses leaders now just as He did in the Bible to accomplish great tasks for Him. Nehemiah is a great example of a leader who was used by God. He depended on God as he felt led to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, but he did not complete the work alone. He asked others to help, and God used him to be a great leader. Nehemiah put his confidence in the Lord while calling upon God for guidance as he directed others during the rebuilding of the wall. Nehemiah even took the time to take a stand for the poor Jewish people. The people told Nehemiah that their fellow countrymen were taking their vineyards, olive groves, and homes, and even taking some of their children into slavery. Nehemiah took a stand for the people demanding all things be returned to them. Nehemiah warned those treating others badly and told them that what they were doing was not right, asking, “Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God?” (Nehemiah 5:9). Nehemiah was very busy building the wall; but as a good leader, being led by God, he took a stand for what was right. God still wants to use people to be good leaders for Him. He needs leaders to preach, teach Sunday School, be missionaries, witness to others, and so on. God wants to raise up leaders. Will you be willing to lead for Him?

Ideas to Illuminate:

Have students take turns being a leader in front of the classroom. Have the leader perform simple tasks for the other students to copy such as clapping hands, touching their nose, etc. Discuss how followers look to their leader. Therefore, it is so important for leaders to be good examples because they are being watched.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who can be a leader for God?
2. Who should leaders trust for guidance?
3. Why do you think leaders are so important?