

RESPONSIBILITY

Verse of the Month: "Whoever can be trusted with very little
can also be trusted with much."
(Luke 16:10)

Elementary

Bible Story: Nehemiah (Nehemiah 1-6)

2nd-3rd Grade

Bottom Line: Be responsible even when it's not your responsibility.

September 20, 2026

BEFORE LARGE GROUP

Early Arriver Idea

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Early Arriver (Activity Page) - 1 per kid
- Markers

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Give each kid an Activity Page. Ask them to figure out all the things that need to be done to make the room nice and clean.
2. Ask them how their week has been and talk through the **"HIGH FIVE"** questions below.

HIGH FIVE (Optional Conversation Starters):

1. What did you do this past week that was really fun?
2. What do you want to be when you grow up?
3. If you could do something different to your room, what would it be?
4. Did you do anything fun this weekend? What did you do?
5. Would you rather make all the beds in your house or do all the laundry for an entire week?

Opening Activity

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

≡ HOW-TO:

1. Have the kids sit down on one side of the small group area to play a game of charades.
2. See if anyone wants to go first and have them stand up. Whisper an activity from the list below in their ear and let them act it out. They may not speak or use sound effects!
3. The kids who are seated will guess what's being acted out until they call out the correct answer.
4. The player who guesses correctly will be the actor for the next round.
5. Keep playing until everyone has a chance to act if they'd like.

ACTIVITIES

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| • Brushing your teeth | • Playing basketball | • Riding a skateboard |
| • Taking the dog for a walk | • Playing baseball | • Playing video games |
| • Flying a kite | • Eating a bowl of cereal | • Diving into the pool |
| • Making your bed | • Going fishing | • Reading a book |

HEAD TO LARGE GROUP > > >

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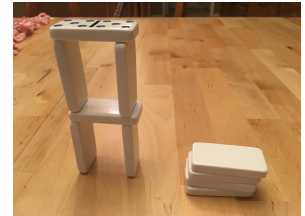
AFTER LARGE GROUP

Bible Story and Bottom Line Review

NEW BOTTOM LINE

✂️ SUPPLIES:

- Dominoes - 50 or more per group
- Clipboards - 2 per group



≡ HOW-TO:

1. Divide the kids into two teams. They'll earn dominoes by answering the Bible Story questions below and then use those dominoes to build the tallest wall they can, just like Nehemiah did!
2. Have a volunteer from each team sit facing each other. Ask the first question. The kid who answers correctly first earns five dominoes.
3. Have a new volunteer from each team sit facing each other to answer the next question. The kid who answers correctly first earns five dominoes. Repeat with the rest of the questions.
4. Each team will then work together to build the tallest wall they can, using the clipboard as a base.
5. Put the dominoes away after they're finished, and have everyone sit in a circle.
6. Read the jobs from the list below. Repeat the Bottom Line together and call on a kid to finish the sentence with a way to get the job done. (e.g., the dishwasher is full of clean dishes. **[Bottom Line] Be responsible even when it's not my responsibility!** So you... put them away!)
7. Have each kid think of a job they can take responsibility for at their house this week. Let them share.

QUESTIONS

1. Who in today's story had a whole book of the Bible named after him? **(Nehemiah)**
2. What did Nehemiah hear about the wall around the city of Jerusalem? **(The wall was broken down.)**
3. Why did that matter? **(Anyone could come into their city, and they couldn't keep bad guys out.)**
4. True or false? Nehemiah sat around and wondered who in the world could go to Jerusalem to rebuild the wall. **(False! He felt responsible because it was his hometown.)**
5. Once arriving in Jerusalem, Nehemiah ventured out at night with a few men in order to do what? **(Inspect the wall.)**
6. True or false? Nehemiah put the people into groups to rebuild the wall. **(True)**
7. True or false? Nehemiah worked until half of the wall was rebuilt. **(False! He worked until it was completely rebuilt.)**
8. What should we do when there's a job to be done? **(Do it!)**

JOBS THAT NEED TO BE DONE

- The dishwasher is full of clean dishes.
- Your neighbor's mailbox is left open.
- There's trash near the bench at your soccer field.
- The person in front of you drops their trash.
- The kitchen trash is full.
- A drink spills on the floor.
- The sink is full of dirty dishes.
- There are crumbs on the carpet.

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- Your little brother finishes eating, and he's a mess!
- The dog's water bowl is empty.
- A plant is knocked over, and there's dirt everywhere.
- Toothpaste is left in the sink.
- Your small group area has trash everywhere.
- There's laundry folded on your bed.

SAY THIS:

Nehemiah didn't wait for someone to tell him to go fix the wall. He saw that it needed to be done, and he did something about it! That's what God wants us to do! God wants us to be responsible, and sometimes that means seeing things that are not our responsibility and **DOING THEM!!** God can help us do that! Today, I want you to go home, look for a job that's not your responsibility, and do it! That's one way to show the people around you that you love them and that they're important to you. Let's think about this for ourselves and remember: **be responsible when it's not my responsibility.** Repeat after me: **be responsible when it's not my responsibility.**

Today we learned to
[Bottom Line] Be responsible even when it's not your responsibility.



**If you haven't had a chance to pray with your small group yet,
take the time now.**

Prayer

Be sensitive to any visitor during this activity, and don't ask them to pray out loud if they're not comfortable.

SUPPLIES:

- No supplies needed

HOW-TO:

1. Gather the kids around in your small group area for prayer.
2. Ask if someone would like to lead the group in prayer and ask God to help everyone look for jobs that need to be done and then do them.
3. If no one volunteers, lead them through the following prayer.

SAY THIS:

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Dear God,

Thank you for loving us and for giving us jobs that we can do to help the people around us and show them that we care about them. This week, help us learn to see jobs that are not our responsibility and DO them. We love you. Amen.

Verse Activity

SUPPLIES:

- Bibles - 1 per 2 kids
- Blank paper - 14 sheets per group
- Markers
- Verse Cling Activity Page - 1 per group
- Masking tape or painter's tape - 1 roll per group

≡ HOW-TO:

LEARN IT! (Find the verse and understand what it means.)

The Bible is full of wisdom from God. Let's look up our verse to learn what God says about being responsible for the things he's trusted us to take care of.

1. Divide the kids into pairs and give them each a Bible. Explain that the Bible is divided into the Old Testament and the New Testament. Demonstrate how to find the verse.
2. Have them find the book of Luke under the New Testament heading in the Table of Contents.
3. Have them find chapter 16 (big number), verse 10 (little number).
4. Read the verse aloud.

LOCK IT! (Memorize the verse to lock it in our hearts.)

It's important to lock the verse in our hearts. One way we do that is with these motions.

1. Review the motions below.
2. See if anyone would like to say the verse from memory.
3. Write out the words of the verse in big block letters on the paper, one word per page.
4. Lay the pages out on the floor in the correct order and tape them down to create a hopscotch board.
5. Encourage the kids to repeat the verse together as they hop across the pages, one at a time.
6. After each kid hops through the board, have them select two pages to turn face down. Have the kids continue to take turns hopping and saying the verse, including the turned-over words.
7. Repeat until all the pages are face down and every kid has had a turn.

MOTIONS

Whoever (point out around the room)

can be trusted (lock hands like you are shaking hands with yourself)

with very little (hold thumb and index finger close together, a typical sign for something really small)

can also be trusted (lock hands like you are shaking hands with yourself)

with much. (spread arms wide)

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SAY THIS:

LIVE IT! (Apply the verse to the way we live every day.)

Now that we've learned the verse and locked it in, we need to live it out. Living out the verse is knowing what it means and applying it to the way we live every day.

Do you know what "trust" means? It means that others can depend on us. Think about your chores at home. What things are you responsible for? (Let kids answer.) What happens if you get those things done? How could following through on those responsibilities lead to bigger ones later on? (Let kids answer.) Yes! When you're responsible for things now, like playing with your little sister while your mom is busy, it might lead to more responsibility later, like babysitting for someone in the neighborhood. When we take responsibility for small things now, we show that we can be trusted with bigger things later on.

You'll get a verse cling like this (hold up Verse Activity Page) when you leave. Put it in a place where everyone will see it, and practice the verse this week with your family!