



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

We can ask God our questions.

THE BIBLE

Nehemiah Asks to Rebuild the Wall: Nehemiah 2:1-20

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

WELCOME TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | What is It?
- **ACTIVITY** | Have You Ever?

TEACHING TIME

- **MUSIC** | Not the Same
- **THE BIG IDEA** | We can ask God our questions.
- **VIDEO** | Wise, Episode 1
- **SCRIPTURE** | Nehemiah 2:1-20
- **ACTIVITY** | Break It Down, Build It Up
- **PRAYER**

DISCUSSION TIME

- **SNACK** | Bread Walls
- **ACTIVITY** | Quest for Questions
- **ACTIVITY** | Why?
- **MEMORY VERSE** | Verse in a Cup

PLAY TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page
- **ACTIVITY** | Re-Building Buddies
- **ACTIVITY** | Add the Walls



WEEK 4

HACKS FOR TODDLERS



BY DARBY GEORGE

HOW TO HACK THIS SERIES FOR TODDLERS

In children's ministry, you've got a wide range of ages you need to engage every week, but toddlers tend to get overlooked. But you know your toddlers need more than just babysitting, so here are a few adjustments you can make to this week in order to keep your toddlers more engaged.

ACTIVITY | What is It?

Pick a few items and ask the kids questions about each item and have them answer it.

ACTIVITY | Quest for Questions

Instead of placing question cards inside the envelope, place pictures that remind kids of their story (cup, bricks, Nehemiah, king, a wall).

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DARBY GEORGE



cypresschurch.tv/kids



facebook.com/darby.v.george



instagram.com/darby_victoria/



twitter.com/Darby_Victoria



Hi, I'm Darby! I currently work in Columbus, Ohio with Cypress Church! I do everything birth-5th grade and I love every second of it! I've been serving and working with Cypress for over 10 years and I couldn't be more excited about what God has done and continues to do through the people here every single day. I have the opportunity to work with an amazing team of kids ministry leaders who push me to do better work every day and who I laugh with more than anyone else. We love kids, we love God, and we love helping kids love God. I am continually blessed to live out my calling by doing this work

each day! My family is the most important thing to me and I am blessed to have grown up knowing God and being pushed by my parents and siblings to know God more. If you bring me coffee, I'll be your best friend forever. I can always be bribed with chips and salsa. Nothing makes me happier than a freezing cold room, a comfy blanket, and a full pot of coffee.

If you'd like to chat with Darby about partnering with parents, what it means to lead children before having any of your own, or which is better: salsa or queso, reach out! She would love to connect with you!

ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Elle Campbell, Brooklyn Lindsey, Amber Stephens, Linda Moon.

TEACHING VIDEOS: Stephanie Whitacre, Elle Campbell.

TODDLER HACKS: Darby George.

MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE: Sunny Brown.

GRAPHIC DESIGN: Josh Gosney, Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

LAYOUT DESIGN: Jules Gray, Elle Campbell.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT: Kenny Campbell, Tash McGill, Stephen Switzer, Ali Anne, Eddie Irvin, Ari Raines, Kellee Gentry, Tim Synan, Josh McLemore, Amber Gaddis.



WEEK 4

PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can ask God our questions.

THE BIBLE

Nehemiah Asks to Rebuild the Wall: Nehemiah 2:1-20

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | What is It?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up a small partition in the front of the room, such as a large cardboard box. Have all the kids close their eyes. Ask one kid to pick an object in the room and hide it behind the partition so the group can't see. Then you and the other kids can ask "Is it. . ." questions while the kid nods or shakes their head (some examples: "Is it blue?" "Is it heavy?" "Is it noisy?"). Ask five questions, and if the group doesn't know what it is, ask: "What is it?" Then ask the kid to reveal the item.

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Pick a few items and ask the kids questions about each item and have them answer it.

ACTIVITY | Have You Ever?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have everyone stand up. Ask a series of questions, and anyone who has ever done what the question is asking, they sit down. Play until everyone is sitting. Here are some examples:
 - Have you ever been to the zoo?
 - Have you ever been on a bus?
 - Have you ever been on a boat?
 - Have you ever gone to a museum?
 - Have you ever taken a picture with Santa Claus?
 - Have you ever been to the hospital?
 - Have you ever gone swimming?

TEACHING TIME

MUSIC | Not the Same

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play “Not The Same” by North Point InsideOut ([this video](#)). Encourage the kids to sing along!

THE BIG IDEA | We can ask God our questions.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Guide all the kids to sit in the shape of a question mark, without telling them that’s what they’re making. This may require you telling each kid specifically where to sit, one-by-one.
- **What shape are we sitting in?** That’s right, we made a big question mark!
- Our Big Idea today is: **we can ask God our questions!**

VIDEO | Wise, Episode 1

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week’s preschool [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Nehemiah 2:1-20

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Bring a bag of blocks to the front with you as you tell the story. Stack one block at a time while you tell the story. Or have the kids build with you.
- Our story today is about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah was born long after King Solomon and by the time he was around, the city where Solomon had built the temple, Jerusalem, was in poor shape. The walls had completely fallen apart! That made Nehemiah sad.
- Nehemiah lived far away from that city. He was a cupbearer to a King. A cupbearer is the person who tastes the king’s food and drinks first to make sure they are safe for the king.
- The king noticed that Nehemiah was sad. He asked Nehemiah why he was feeling so sad and what he could do to help.
- Nehemiah asked the king if he could go to the city of Jerusalem and rebuild the walls. He also asked if the king would write letters to people who could help Nehemiah.
- The king agreed and sent people with Nehemiah so he would have a safe journey to Jerusalem. And just like our wall here, Nehemiah was able to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- Nehemiah was wise. He let the king ask what the problem was first, instead of asking to leave for Jerusalem right away. When the king said yes, Nehemiah asked for very important things so that he could get the job done.
- We should always ask questions when we don’t know something. God always finds a way to give us the answers we need, so we can ask God our questions!

ACTIVITY | Break It Down, Build It Up

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two teams. Give each team a stack of cups and have them build a wall. Then have kids take turns throwing a bean bag or rolling a ball to knock the other team’s walls down. Once they are down, tell each team to cross over to the other team’s side and build their wall back up for them.

PRAYER

- Dear God, We thank You for never making us feel silly for asking You questions. We know You love listening to us and answering our questions. Help us to be wise by asking questions, just like Nehemiah.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Bread Walls

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a plate of fruits (or any other desired snack). Then give each kid a slice of bread and have them try to eat only the inside and leave the crust intact. Tell them to place the bread crust around the fruits. Alternatively, you can have kids rip apart pieces of bread and place it around their fruit. Tell kids that the bread crust reminds us of the walls Jeremiah rebuild around Jerusalem.

ACTIVITY | Quest for Questions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print this week's printable and cut out each of the questions. Place each question card inside an envelope, and draw a big question mark on the front. Before the kids arrive, hide the five envelopes. Tell the kids to search for the hidden envelopes and once they find all of them, have them gather around. Ask a different kid each time to open an envelope. Read the question inside to the group and have them answer.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of placing question cards inside the envelope, place pictures that remind kids of their story (cup, bricks, Nehemiah, king, a wall).

ACTIVITY | Why?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a kids trivia book ([like this one](#)) and share some fun facts with the kids. Ask kids to participate by asking "why." For example: "Do you know why doughnuts have holes?" "Why?" (You could have kids flip through the book and pick the ones they want you to read.)
- These are some cool facts! Aren't you glad you asked WHY?

MEMORY VERSE | Verse in a Cup

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write out parts of the memory verse on small, separate strips of paper. Place all the strips inside a cup. You are going to ask one kid at a time to pull out one strip of paper at a time and hand it to you. Ask the kids to help you put the verse in order.
- Does anyone remember what Nehemiah's job for the king was? That's right, he was the cupbearer! **Can you help me taste what's in this cup?**

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a coloring page along with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. Remind them of today's story, memory verse, and Big Idea as they color!

ACTIVITY | Re-Building Buddies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give kids play tools (such as a plastic hammer, screwdriver, drill, saw, etc.) and have kids go around the room and pretend to fix things up, just like Nehemiah did with the walls of Jerusalem.

ACTIVITY | Add the Walls

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Encourage kids to build their own city, like Jerusalem, with wooden blocks, LEGO Duplo, magnetic tiles, cardboard boxes, or a combination of all of the above. Then, have them build a wall around their city, reminding them of today's story.

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.