

# NEHEMIAH - GOD'S PEOPLE REPENTED

## KIDS' LIFEGROUP GUIDE

WEEK: 2/9/20 - 2/15/20

### OVERVIEW:

- **Part 1:** Catch Up On Life (15 Minutes)
- **Part 2:** Kidtown Lesson Review (15 Minutes)
- **Part 3:** Reflection (15 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3a: Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3b: Snack (5 Minutes)
  - Optional - Part 3c: Sing (5 Minutes)
- **Part 4:** Prayer Time! (20 Minutes)

### PART 1: CATCH UP ON LIFE (15 minutes)

**Setting:** Sit in a circle with kids and adults interspersed! Adults sitting amongst the kids helps everyone engage and pay attention. Parents - you are always responsible for your kids, but you're also looking to engage with other kids in your group.

- *Leader Note: If your group eats dinner with your kids, this is the best part of the guide to do together while you eat. Add 15 minutes for everyone to get their plates and start eating. Then shift into intentional conversation as the kids are starting to finish their food.*

**Vision:** God calls the church -- and our LifeGroup -- to be family! Because of this, we want our kids to know our adults and our adults to know our kids. The best way to get to know each other is to ask each other questions and tell each other about our lives.

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, you can ask kids if they remember why we ask each other questions. Help them to remember that God's making us family, so we want to get to know each other.*

#### Questions:

- 1.) What was your high and low from the week?
- 2.) **Kids Pick!** Let each kid ask the adults in the group one question.
  - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Kids to ask Adults if they're having a hard time thinking of any.
- 3.) **Adults Pick!** Have each adult ask the kids in the group one question.
  - Click [here](#) for a bank of questions for Adults to ask Kids if they're having a hard time thinking of any.

## PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (15 minutes)

**Vision:** God uses the Bible to show Himself to us. He also uses it to help us love Him and others better. We don't only want to learn *about* the Bible; we're also called to apply it to our lives -- to change the way we think (Head), what we love and value (Heart) and what we do (Hands).

- *Leader note: While you're getting started, have an adult -- or older kid -- read this vision statement. After you've done it for a while, ask kids if they remember why we study the Bible.*

**Lesson:** God's People Repented

**Bible Passages:** Nehemiah 8-13

### REVIEW:

- 1.) **Kids what do you remember from the story you learned about on Sunday?** (Pause and let them think of what they can remember.)
- 2.) **Can anyone remember the main characters?**
  - God (*Leader Note: Almost always a right answer. Helps reinforce that the entire Bible is about God and points forward to Jesus*)
  - Ezra, God's people, the Levites
- 3.) **Ok, does anyone remember any of the story points?**

**Story Point #1:** God's people celebrated finishing the wall.  
**Story Point #2:** God sent Ezra to read God's Word to the people.  
**Story Point #3:** God's people realized they had not followed God's Word.  
**Story Point #4:** God's people repented and then celebrated!
- 4.) **Awesome! And can anyone remember how this story connected to Jesus?**  
**Christ Connection:** God sent Jesus to lead us to repent and celebrate!

**Transition:** That was awesome! Y'all did a great job remembering. Ok let's watch the video and see if we remember anything we forgot or notice anything new this time.

### WATCH THE VIDEO STORY:

Click [here](#) to watch the Gospel Project Video Story.

### TALK THROUGH THE STORY POINTS:

*Leader Note: If your kids are younger, it helps to give them journals. For each question, have them write their answers first and then go around the circle and share.*

**Leader Note:** Say each story point and have the kids repeat it.

#### **Story Point #1: God's people celebrated finishing the wall.**

- Question: What did the people do when the wall was finished? *They gathered together, threw a big party and had Ezra read God's Word to them.*
- Question: Why was it so exciting for God's people that the wall was finished? *Remember last week we talked about how enemies of God's people really didn't want the wall to be rebuilt because without a wall, they would be easy to attack? God's people were excited that God had provided for them and helped them to finish the wall quickly!*

## PART 2: KIDTOWN LESSON REVIEW (CONTINUED)

### Story Point #2: God sent Ezra to read God's Word to the people.

- **Read Nehemiah 8:2-3.** How long did Ezra read God's word to the people? *He read to them from early morning until midday. That's a long Kidtown lesson!*
- **Read Nehemiah 8:5-6.** What did the people do when they were first hearing God's word? *They stood up and then bowed down to worship God.*
- **Read Nehemiah 8:7-8.** (Warning: There are some long names in here.) Who helped the people understand God's Word? *The Levites helped the people understand in small groups, kind of like we do in LifeGroups!*

### Story Point #3: God's people realized they had not followed God's Word.

- Read Nehemiah 8:9
  - Question: What did the people do as they continued to hear God's Word? *The Bible says they wept. This shows that they realized something was off about their lives. They had not followed God's Word!*

### Story Point #4: God's people repented and then celebrated.

- Question: Why did God's people need to repent? *They had not been doing what God's Word told them to do.*
- Question: What is "repentance"? *Repentance is turning away from sin and turning to Jesus.*
- Question: What did the people do after they repented? *They celebrated and threw a party!*
  - Why did they celebrate? *They celebrated because God had helped them understand His Word so they could follow His ways.*

## REVIEW THE CHRIST CONNECTION AND APPLY IT:

### Christ Connection: God sent Jesus to help us repent and celebrate.

- Teach: How cool is that?! Jesus came to rescue us from our greatest enemy, sin. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who would trust in Him! Because Jesus has done this for us, we can repent and turn back to Him! And so, we can celebrate, just like God's people did in our story today when they repented!

### Main Application(s): Reading God's Word helps us to recognize our sin, repent from it and celebrate the grace that we have been given.

- Adults first then kids - What can you do when you realize that you have sinned?
- Adults first then kids - Is there anything in your life right now that you need to confess and repent of?

## PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE:

Ask any of the kids if they can remember the key passage. Help lead them through it leaving out words and see if they can fill them in.

The God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself restore, establish, strengthen, and support you after you have suffered a little while.

**1 Peter 5:10**

## PART 3: REFLECTION (10 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child or tell them to get their journals. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- What is one thing I need to do in light of this story? (Help the kids think of ways they can grow, how they might pray for help or practical steps of repentance they can take.)

After the kids have had time to write down their reflection questions, go around the circle and share one at a time (kids and adults).

## OPTIONAL - PART 3a: LESSON ACTIVITY (10 minutes)

### Option 1: Party hats

Provide a sheet of construction paper to each kid. Help the kids draw a large circle on their papers. You may choose to use sturdy paper plates as templates for kids to trace around. Allow the kids to decorate their sheets inside the circles they drew. Instruct the kids to cut out their circles, and then cut a slit from the edge of the circle to the center. Form the slitted circles into cone shapes by overlapping the two sides of the circle and tapping them in place.

SAY • Today we heard about a time God's people had a big party. What were they celebrating?

### Option 2: How would you respond?

Read different scenarios. Kids will draw a face on a small dry erase board to represent how they would feel. They may hold up their pictures for everyone to see. Invite kids explain why they picked that emotion.

Suggested scenarios: getting a cool gift for your birthday; getting sick during a day off from school, finding out your pet is sick; your best friend coming over to spend the night; finding a five dollar bill in your pocket; waking up from a nightmare; and so forth.

SAY • In our story, the Israelites heard the Word of God read. It made them cry because they realized that they had sinned against God. God's people repented and promised to be faithful, and Ezra told them that it was a happy day. They could celebrate because of how faithful God had been to them.

## OPTIONAL - PART 3b: SNACK (5 minutes)

If your group doesn't eat dinner together, now is a great time to stop for a snack break before spending time praying together and talking about living on mission. For Kidtown we keep snacks simple with Goldfish for most kids and Gummy snacks in case a kid has Gluten allergies.

## OPTIONAL - PART 3c: SING (5 minutes)

Play one or more of this video (or pick another that you like) and sing and dance along!

- [The God of All Grace](#) (Key Passage Song)

## PART 4: PRAYER TIME! (20 minutes)

### PRAY FOR EACH OTHER: (10 minutes)

**Vision:** God calls His people to love each other, pray for each other and help each other carry burdens.

**Questions to Ask** (pick 1):

- How do you need prayer this week?
- What is one thing you need Jesus to help you with this week?
- What is one way you're hoping Jesus will help you grow this week?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to write down the other kids' prayer requests. Then have each kid pray for the person on their right!

### PRAY FOR JESUS' MISSION: (10 minutes)

**Vision:** God calls His people to share with others the good news of Jesus. This means that we try to love others with our actions and with our words. We want all our friends to know about Jesus and His great love for them.

**Questions to Ask** (pick 1):

- What friends or neighbors of yours can we pray for today?
- How can you show God's love this week to someone who might not know Him?
- Who could we invite to do something fun with our LifeGroup friends this month?

**Pray:** Invite each kid to pray for their friends or someone else's friend to come to know Jesus. Have one adult close out the time, thanking God for how we get to be family together and asking God to bring more people into His family!