



## God is Worthy of Praise – Remember & Celebrate

Nehemiah

### God Statement: God is the One True God

**KEY VERSE:** “Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God”  
(Isaiah 46:9a, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: God is Worthy of Praise**

In today's lesson, we are going to learn about how God is worthy of praise!

**SAY:**

Do you know what today is? It's Remember & Celebrate! Raise your hand if you've been here for a Remember & Celebrate before. What does it mean to remember something? *Let kids respond.* That's right, it means to look back and think about something. What does celebrate mean? *Let kids respond.* Celebrate means to do something special to honor something or someone or express happiness.

Why do you think we have Remember & Celebrate? **Let kids respond.** We have Remember & Celebrate every couple of months, as a way to pause from our normal routine, look back on all God has been doing, and celebrate who He is, what He has done, and where He has brought us!

Today, we're going to learn how God is worthy of our praise! What do you think of when you hear the word praise? **Let kids respond.** Show me what it could look like to praise. God is worthy of our praise which means God deserves all of our love, affection, worship, and glory! We're going to learn more about that later as we look at the story of Nehemiah, but first let's make something together!

### MAKE:

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

#### Build a Wall - Paper Activity

**Supplies:** Nehemiah coloring page, brick paper pieces, markers, glue

**Say:** *Today we get to learn about a special guy named Nehemiah! We get to learn how God helped him and how God is always worthy of our praise! Before we jump into the lesson, let's help Nehemiah build a wall!*

**Directions:** Pass out one Nehemiah page per child. Give each child 10-15 bricks to glue onto their page to make a wall. Have children color the remaining parts of their coloring page.

## LARGE GROUP

(25 minutes)

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

### REMEMBER & CELEBRATE

#### Host

*Briefly introduce the topic reminding kids that this weekend is Remember & Celebrate. Use this time to reference the "Feasts & Festivals" table on stage, talking about what it represents.*

**Say:** It's Remember & Celebrate weekend! Do you notice anything different on the stage today? That's right! This table – we call it the Feasts & Festivals table! Let's name some of the items we see on the table. **Use the laminated guide in the F&F Bin to discuss what some of the items represent.** I can't wait to spend more time today remembering all God has done for us and celebrating His faithfulness. Let's get started!

## WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS

### *Host*

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

### **Expectations Slide**

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

*\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the "Worship" slide.\*\*\**

## KEY VERSE

### *Host*

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God's Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.*

**"Remember what happened in the past. Think about what took place long ago. I am God."  
(Isaiah 46:9a, NIRV)**

*\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship.\*\*\**

## OPENING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don't forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it's not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:**

- Next To Me
- Battle Belongs
- Closing: Same God

*\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day.\*\*\**

## **BIBLE STORY**

### **Lesson Video**

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### **THIS WEEK'S LESSON: God is Worthy of Praise – Remember & Celebrate**

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God.\*\*\**

## **WORSHIP RESPONSE**

### **Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

**Supplies:** chalkboard WR station, chalk, Attributes of God Posters

**Prepare Ahead:** hang Attributes of God Posters around the room (by chalkboards)

God is worthy of our praise! After God helped Nehemiah and the Israelites rebuild the wall, they praised Him because they knew He is the one true God! God deserves all of our praise too! Let's take some time to praise God for who He is today.

### **PRAISE & WORSHIP ACTIVITY:**

There are posters around the room that have different pictures/words that describe God. As we listen to the music, take a moment to look at a poster and think about which picture/word you want to praise God for today. Then, write/draw that on the board!

**Allow kids to respond at the chalkboards for a few minutes while soft worship music plays in the background.**

**Once everyone has had a chance to respond, say:**

Now that we have thought about the reasons why God is worthy of praise, let's do that – praise God! We're going to sing one final worship song together. As we sing this, think about how amazing God is and sing this song to Him because He deserves all our praise!

**Close time in prayer.**

*\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\**

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

### **Worship Leader**

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

*\*\*\*After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the “Compassion International” slide.\*\*\**

## **COMPASSION & OFFERING**

### **Host**

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

*\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the “Announcement” slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & SPECIAL MISSIONS FOCUS – ACTS Feeding Families**

### **Host**

*Take this opportunity to cover any announcements and special missions focus for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.*

**Remind kids how one of our ongoing mission focuses is ACTs Feeding Families. Hold up a green Feeding Families bag or a food donation list to share about the important role families can play by providing food donations regularly to people right here in our own community.**

**OPTIONAL: Use the Feeding Families promo video provided in the PowerPoint to show kids the impact Feeding Families has.**

***Invite a kid to come up and pray for the families who receive food through Feeding Families.***

*\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the “Blessing” slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\**

## **BLESSING**

### **Host**

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***May you see how God is worthy of praise this week! May you remember that God is good, God is powerful, and God is love!***

## **SMALL GROUP**

### **Classroom Teachers**

**(10 minutes)**

***Pass out snacks during this time and break into a few small groups to chat together.*** Use the questions below as a guide to lead the conversation, but feel free to insert your own questions as the conversation develops.

***\*\*check for allergies before giving kids snacks\*\****

### **Younger Kids:**

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read/ Recap today’s story: Nehemiah**
  - a. **What did Nehemiah ask the king for?** (To go and rebuild the walls for the Israelites)
  - b. **Who did the Israelites and Nehemiah thank for the walls and the protection?** (They thanked God)
  - c. **Did Nehemiah ever doubt God?** (No!)
3. **Nehemiah trusted God and knew that God was the one true God and the only God he should follow. Can you think of a time where you had to trust God? What is one way that God takes care of you?**

**Close small group in prayer.**

**Older Kids:**

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **What did you learn about God from our story today?**
2. **Read scripture: Nehemiah 2:4-6**
  - a. **What did Nehemiah ask the king for?** (To go and rebuild the walls for the Israelites)
3. **Read scripture: Nehemiah 6:16**
  - a. **Who did the Israelites and Nehemiah thank for the walls and the protection?** (They thanked God)
  - b. **Did Nehemiah ever doubt God?** (No!)
4. **Nehemiah trusted God and knew that God was the one true God and the only God he should follow. Can you think of a time where you had to trust God? What is one way that God takes care of you?**

Close small group in prayer.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(10 minutes)**

### **DISCUSS:**

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

### **PLAY: Hand Clap Freeze Dance**

**Supplies:** hand clapper (one party clapper per child), music

**Directions:** Pass out one hand clapper per child. Play freeze dance and clap for God, using the music in the classroom.

**Say:** *Today we learned that God helped Nehemiah and His people rebuild a wall and He watched over them! God deserves all of the praise. Let's play a fun game to remind us of our story today.*

***Children can keep their hand clappers and take them home!***

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*

**(end of service)**

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*