



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!

WORSHIP & LARGE GROUP RULES

Worship Leader & Host

WORSHIP

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!

Feel free to modify your worship time for what works best for your age group. You can find different ways to encourage the kids to participate by giving them instruments or showing them simple hand motions. You can also limit how many songs you choose to play, if it seems like the kids are not able to stay focused the entire time.

TODAY'S WORSHIP SONGS:

- When I Look
- Same God

LARGE GROUP RULES

Once everyone has found their seat, play Large Group Rules video in the PowerPoint provided. If needed, reinforce the rules after the video plays.

**** After Worship & Large Group Rules, transition the PowerPoint to the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder slides. ****

MAIL TIME & WARDROBE OF WONDER

Host

MAIL TIME!

Find the Mail Time envelope in your curriculum supplies.

Pick one child to hide the envelope and another child to find it. Give the first child about 30 seconds to hide the envelope while the other child closes his/her eyes. After the envelope is hidden, the second child can search for the envelope while the class says "hot" or "cold" to give them clues if they're getting closer or further away.

Have the two kids stand in front of the class and hold the verse page (inside the envelope) so everyone can see it.

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)**

WARDROBE OF WONDER - NONE (Remember & Celebrate)

**** After the Mail Time & Wardrobe of Wonder, Younger Kids classes transition to 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 this 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 Compassion & Offering slides.****

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.

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.