

Nehemiah: Lesson 3

SuperTruth: God gives me joy as I follow Him.

SuperVerse: “The joy of the LORD is your strength!” Nehemiah 8:10b (NLT)

Bible Story: Nehemiah 1–8

LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Today, we will learn about God's joy. God gives us joy when we follow Him. It doesn't matter where we are or what we are doing, we can experience the joy of the Lord!

- Superbook takes Chris, Joy and Gizmo to meet Nehemiah, who creates a daring plan to rebuild Jerusalem's ruined walls, even though wicked men mock him—and plot to kill him! The children discover how to find courage to overcome every challenge.
- Now let's watch our Signposts Video to see how Nehemiah points us to Jesus. Nehemiah was a man of prayer and a faithful and compassionate leader. Like Jesus, Nehemiah submitted to God's plan and finished the work God gave him to do!

SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

Game: Share the Joy! (15 minutes)

Objective: Play a game to find and pass along joy.

- The joy of the Lord was Nehemiah's strength. God is the source of true joy! In our game, you will see that God gives joy to us in the midst of any situation; all we must do is follow Him!

Game Instructions:

- One player from each team plays at the same time. Each player will travel to all four signs in order. This represents following God's call and path, like Nehemiah did. At each sign, you will find joy represented by cups. You will take a cup of joy and travel to the next sign, where you'll pick up another cup—until you have four cups. The next player then takes a turn.

Teaching: Examples to Follow (15 minutes)

Objective: Nehemiah points to Jesus as a great leader.

- Nehemiah was a wonderful leader who trusted in God even when being mocked and opposed. The qualities of Nehemiah point us to the greatest leader the world has ever known—Jesus!

Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (2 minutes)

- The Discipleship Challenge for Lesson 3 is to fill in the blanks for the final scripture on the craft, 1 Corinthians 3:11, then discuss the questions on the back.

SuperVerse: Superbook Key Words (5 minutes)

Objective: Memorize the SuperVerse with a group activity.

- When we confess our sins and trust Jesus as our Savior, God forgives us and gives us new life in Him. The Holy Spirit fills us with joy, for we know we are God's children, and He is always with us. And that's why we are so happy, today!
- Hold up one SuperVerse card so the children can see the word, then say the verse together and shout that word. After saying the verse, discuss the significance of the word that was shouted.

Prayer: Prayers of Joy (5 minutes)

Objective: Communicate with God.

- Like the Israelites, we have every reason to be filled with joy. Jesus died for us and rescued us from our captivity to sin. He made us righteous in God's sight and gave us victory over sin and death. We also have eternal life through our Savior, Jesus and God's Spirit inside us.
- Stand and go around the circle, with each person thanking or praising God for something. If you are comfortable doing so, lift your hands toward heaven as you briefly pray. Allow time for the children to offer their praise and thanksgiving to God. Then close in prayer.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

Craft: Create a reminder of the Feast of Tabernacles. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Connect the Dots Activity: Connect the dots to reveal the Bible story picture. | **Grades 1–6** | 15 min

Sword Drill: Look up and discuss Bible verses about joy. | **Grades 4–6** | 15 min

Match Game: Play a game to pair joy and strength. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

Game Materials Needed:

- Eight disposable cups: four each of two different colors—for example, four blue cups and four red cups
- Permanent marker
- Joy Signs Pattern
- Masking tape or painters tape

Teaching Materials Needed:

- Signpost Cards
- Three stackable boxes (any sizes)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Faith Wall and Stone Patterns for children who missed Lesson 1
- Bibles or the Superbook Bible App

SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Whiteboard and marker; or chalkboard and chalk
- Eraser
- SuperVerse Key Words Pattern
- Scissors
- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App