



WEEK
THREE
SEPTEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP

K-1

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



* 1. ACTION DISTRACTION

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic cups, ping-pong balls, floor tape, hand sanitizer

WHAT YOU DO:

- Keep the two teams from "Bible Story Tower Review" or divide the group into two different teams.
- Give each kid one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Give one team all of the cups and the other team a set of ping-pong balls.
- Tape to a large circle around the team with the cups.
- Instruct the team with the ping-pong balls to stand outside of the tape circle.
- Direct the kids inside the circle to work together to build a tower with their cups.
- Instruct the kids outside the tape circle to try to knock down the cup tower by throwing their ping-pong balls at the tower.
- Explain these three rules:
 - Kids with the ping-pong balls are only allowed to step inside the tape circle to collect their ping-pong balls.
 - Kids with the ping-pong balls are only allowed to throw them once they are outside the circle.
 - Kids can only throw the ping-pong balls at the cups, not at each other.
- Start the game.
- Periodically say, "PAUSE" and read one of the distractions from the list below.
- Direct the kids that when they hear "PAUSE," everyone must stop what they are doing.
- Call out the distraction when all of the kids are paused.
- Say, "RESUME" to cue the teams to start again.
- Repeat until you've read half the distractions from the list.
- Stop the game and direct each kid to use one pump of hand sanitizer.
- Instruct the kids to switch teams so the builders are throwers and the throwers are builders.
- Say, "RESUME" to start again. Stop the game by saying "PAUSE" every so often to call out the rest of the distractions.
 - DISTRACTIONS:
 - You're thirsty.
 - You want a snack.
 - The doorbell rings.
 - Someone interrupts you.
 - It's beautiful outside.
 - You're hot.
 - You're cold.
 - Your mind keeps wandering.
 - You're tired.
 - You think to yourself, "I can do this later."
 - You're falling asleep.
- Collect the cups and ping-pong balls.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now

Nehemiah and Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on what
needs to be done.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Work at everything you do with
all your heart. Work as if you
were working for the Lord.

Colossians 3:23a, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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(* 1. ACTION DISTRACTION, CONTINUED)

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When we need to get things done—especially BIG jobs that require lots of focus and effort—there will always be distractions! Just like Nehemiah faced them, we will face them, too. We might be distracted when we try to finish our homework, finish our chores, or even pay attention to our teacher in class. We need to remember that God is with us, that He is FOR us, and that He will help us finish what we start. When you have a big job to do this week, ask God to help you **stay focused on what needs to be done.**"



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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen
in the brain and taps into the energy
in the body



2. MEMORY VERSE BUILDING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Verse Word Bricks" Activity Page cards, Bible, crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Hand out the "Verse Word Bricks" to the kids.
 - Set out the crayons and let kids color the bricks.
 - Open the Bible to Colossians 3:23 and read the verse out loud.
 - Collect the "bricks" from the kids, shuffle each set, and lay them out face down on the floor on one side of your small group area.
 - Divide kids into two teams and line each team up across from a pile of "bricks."
 - Encourage the kids to race, one at a time, to the pile of bricks, collect one, and bring it back, then tag the next friend in line.
 - Once all the bricks are collected, instruct the kids to work together to put them in verse order.
 - When the kids finish, encourage them to sit down.
 - Review by reading the verse together.
 - If time allows, repeat the verse again with the motions you learned last week.
- **NirV motions:**
"Work (*pound fists together*) at everything you do (*fan arms out in front of you*) with all your heart (*both hands over heart*). Work (*pound fists together*) as if you (*point thumbs to chest*) were working (*pound fists together*) for the Lord," (*point to the sky*) Colossians 3:23.
- **NIV motions:**
"Whatever you do (*fan arms out in front of you*), work at it (*pound fists together*) with all your heart, (*both hands over heart*) as working (*pound fists together*) for the Lord," (*point to the sky*) Colossians 3:23.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"We all have big jobs to do. It's easy to get distracted and think about giving up before the job is done. But it helps when we remember that God is with us! He will help us. Let's do everything—every big or small task—as if we're working for God! Then when we're tempted to get off course, let's **stay focused on what needs to be done.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now

Nehemiah and Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

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MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Colossians 3:23a, NirV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Initiative—Seeing what needs
to be done and doing it

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.



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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Ping-pong balls from "Action Distraction" Activity, permanent markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a ping-pong ball and a permanent marker.
- Instruct the kids to carefully write "FOCUS" on their ping-pong ball.
- Collect the markers as soon as they finish and set them aside.
- Invite the kids to hold their ping-pong balls as you pray for them.
- Encourage the kids to take their ping-pong balls home as a reminder to ask God to help them **stay focused on what needs to be done.**

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Let's bow our heads so we can focus on talking to God!

"Heavenly Father, we love You. Just like You helped Nehemiah stay on task when he had a big job to do, please help us **stay focused on what needs to be done.** This week, when we get distracted, help us keep going and finish what we start. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, instruct the kids to show them their ping-pong balls and talk about how they need to **stay focused on what needs to be done.**

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Ain't No Stoppin' Us Now

Nehemiah and Sanballat
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Initiative—Seeing what needs
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BASIC TRUTH

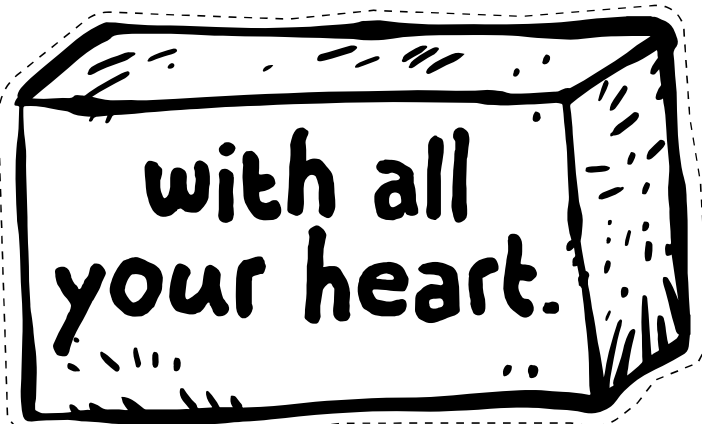
I can trust God no matter what.



Work at
everything



you do



with all
your heart.



Work as if




you were



working for



the Lord.



Colossians
3:23 NIrV

What to Do:

Print on cardstock and cut apart. Provide two sets for each group.

Initiative is seeing what needs to be done and doing it.

Read Hebrews 12:1

DAY

1

Finding a Focus

Grab a sheet of paper. Roll up the paper to create a tube and secure with tape or glue. Ask a friend to play a game of Find It. Take turns looking around your space and naming an object. The other person will look through the tube with one eye closed or covered so that they can only focus on the object through the tube. Take turns playing!

Look for ways that you can use your focus to help others.

DAY

2

Focus, Don't Fidget!

Sometimes small things like standing in one place takes a lot of focus but when we have a focal point it makes things a lot easier! Find an open space in your house, stand on one foot and have someone count how long you can balance. Now, find a focus point in your room. It could be a dot on the wall, a picture, anything that doesn't move. Stand on one foot again while focusing on that point and count. Did it make your time longer or shorter?

Know that with God's help you can focus on things that matter.

DAY

3

Throw It!

Read this week's Bible verse, Hebrews 12:1. On a sheet of paper write the words: "Throw off what stands in our way!" and write or draw something that can keep you from helping others! Is it video games or TV? After you have written what stands in your way, crumple up that paper and throw it away to signify that you are going to try better on taking initiative!

Ask God to help keep distractions away when you need to focus.

DAY

4

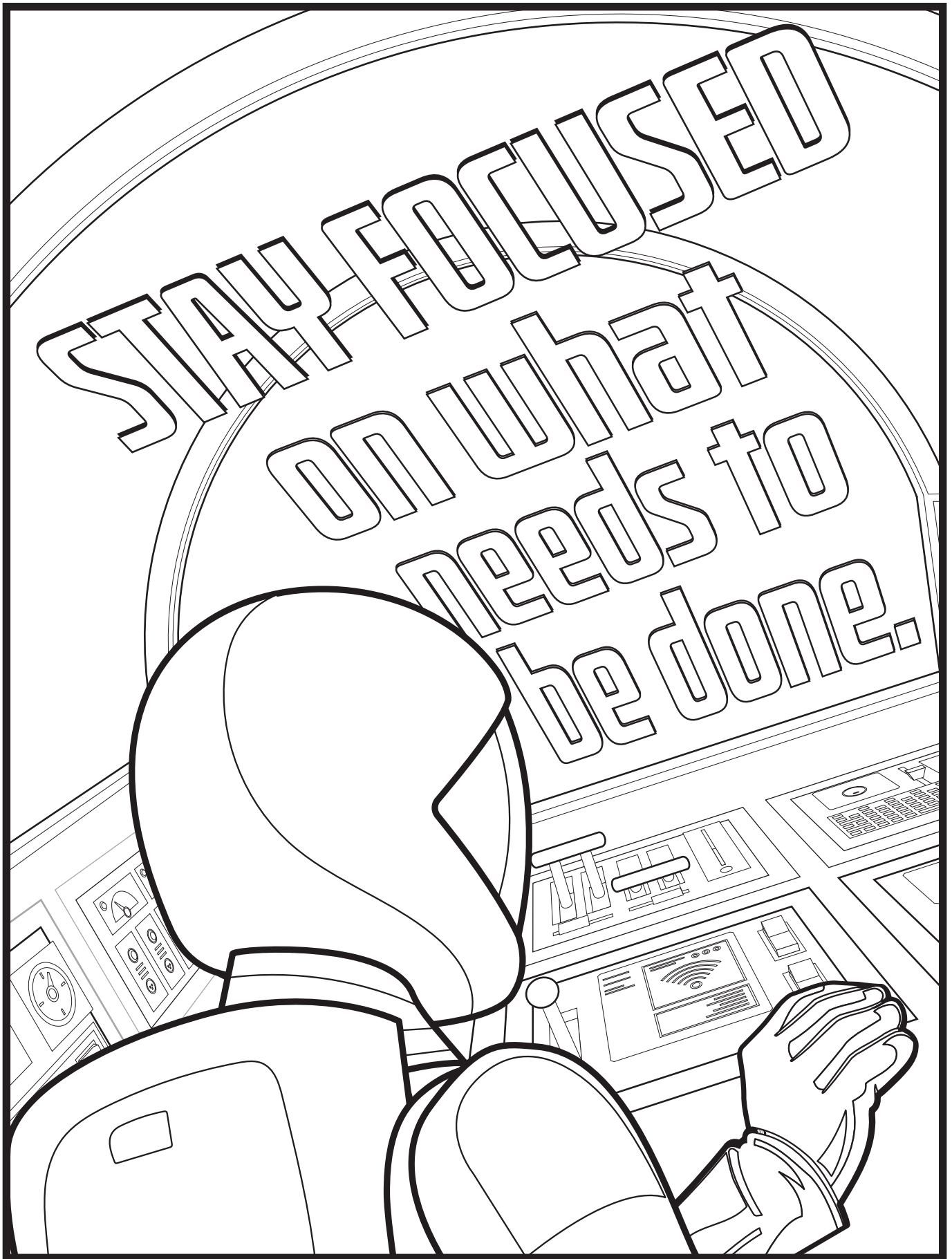
Let's Focus

God wants us to stay focused on telling others about Him, taking initiative, and helping others. If we can stay focused on what God wants us to do we can show others His love for them! Talk to God and ask Him for help.

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"Dear God, Help me to show others that they are important by helping them, being there for them, and staying focused on what you want from me. I pray that I can have good initiative this week. Amen."

# Stay focused on what needs to be done.





## MONTHLY OVERVIEW

### GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN INITIATIVE AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

God took the initiative by sending Jesus to show us how much He loves us and fix the relationship between us. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, we reflect God's image in us. Through our initiative, others can see the reality of God's love for them.

### WEEK ONE

#### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah Plans to Rebuild the Wall  
Nehemiah 1:1-2:18

#### BOTTOM LINE

Don't wait for someone else to do what needs to be done.

### WEEK TWO

#### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah Helps the Poor  
Nehemiah 5

#### BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to make things right.

### WEEK THREE

#### BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah and Sanballat  
Nehemiah 2:19-20, 4, 6

#### BOTTOM LINE

Stay focused on what needs to be done.

### WEEK FOUR

#### BIBLE STORY

The Wall Is Rebuilt  
Nehemiah 3-4, 6:15-16, 8:1-17

#### BOTTOM LINE

Look for ways to celebrate what God has done.

#### MEMORY VERSE

"WORK AT EVERYTHING YOU DO WITH ALL YOUR HEART. WORK AS IF YOU WERE WORKING FOR THE LORD."

COLOSSIANS 3:23A, NIRV

#### INITIATIVE

SEEING WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE AND DOING IT