**September 19th, 2021: Pre-k thru 2nd grade Sunday School  
NEHEMIAH lesson 4: restoration to the poor**

***In this lesson, the children will see how God uses Nehemiah to care for both the poor and the Israelites.  
by Kristy Thornton***

**AS KIDS ARRIVE: EXTEND YOUR HAND ACTIVITY (Materials: printed activity page, markers)  
*The children will enjoy reflecting and drawing things that they have enjoyed giving to others.*  
WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Each of you will have a worksheet with a hand on it. I would like you to think back and remember a time that you gave something to someone. I would then like you to draw what you enjoyed giving on the hand activity page. If there are multiple things you gave and you cannot fit them all on the page, you can draw the rest of them on the back of the paper.  
  
After the children have finished the activity, go around the room and have students share what they gave and how it made them feel.

**WORSHIP TIME & BIBLE VERSE: "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing.”  Proverbs 28:27 NIV**  
Read the scripture aloud to the class. Have them read it with you one more time. The ask, "who likes to give to others? How do you think God feels when we give to others in need?"

**BIBLE STORY**

**Introduction:** Nehemiah has been God’s partner through this entire journey in rebuilding the walls and gates in Jerusalem. Nehemiah doesn’t only care about the walls, he also cares about the people’s physical health. He wants to make sure that all of God’s people had the necessities to live: Food, water, shelter, and clothing. Let’s read to find out why God uses Nehemiah to help others.  
  
**Read Nehemiah 5:1-12 (Nehemiah Helps the Poor)**Read these verses using different voices for the different groups of people.  
  
**Discussion Questions:**  
1. At the beginning of Nehemiah Chapter 5, the people said, “We and our sons and daughter are numerous.” What does this mean?*(There are a lot of people, with many sons and daughters.)*  
2. Do you think it cost a lot of money to feed and clothe a family, especially a big family? *(Yes.)*  
3. Many people in Jerusalem are poor and they have to borrow money to pay taxes and interest. Which just makes them poorer. Do you think that people should be treated differently just because they are poor? *(Allow children to respond.)*  
4. Is Nehemiah happy or angry with the way poor people were treated in Jerusalem? What does he do? *(He is angry, so he calls a meeting with the nobles and officials.)*  
5. Nehemiah told them that what they were doing was not right and they needed to give money back to the poor. How did the nobles and officials respond to the command made by Nehemiah?*(They said, “We will give it back. And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say.”)*

**FUN TIME: GIVE TO THE POOR CRAFT (Materials: Scripture slips printed, crayons, paper, stapler or glue, yarn, scissors)**

***The children will enjoy making a craft to remind them that when they give to the poor they will lack nothing.***  
**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Have the children make a purse or wallet that has Proverbs 28:27 on the outside and the words "You will lack nothing" on the inside. Have the children fold their paper in half. It doesn’t matter which direction. Staple or glue the sides, but leave the top open. If children want a purse, staple the yarn to each side of the purse. Glue the scripture slip to the outside of the purse or wallet and the phrase "You will lack nothing." on the inside. Students can then use the crayons to decorate and color their purses or wallets.  
  
**ALTERNATE FUN TIME: WHO CARES? GOD CARES! OBJECT TALK (Materials: small bucket of sand)  
*During this discussion, the children will find that God cares about every person, and they should too.*****WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Fill your palm with sand and let it pour into the bucket. Do this until you are done reading Psalm 139:17-18.  
  
Did you know that God’s thoughts of us are numerous? Just like the people in Nehemiah’s story were numerous. There were so many people, yet God’s thoughts are even more numerous than the number of people on this earth. How many times do you think God thinks about you? The scripture says that His thoughts outnumber the grains of sand. *(Pause and try to count the grains and get frustrated because there are just too many.)* I cannot even count the grains of sand in this small bucket—let alone all the grains of sand on earth. God thinks about your mom, your dad, your neighbors, your teachers, your mail carrier, etc. God cares for His people.  
  
**Discussion Questions:** *(All answers will be "God.")*  
1. Who cares about the people on this earth?  
2. Who cares about the children?  
3. Who cares about the elderly?  
4. Who cares about the poor?  
5. Who cares about the sick?  
6. Who cares about the needy?  
7. Who cares about the hardworking?  
8. Who cares about your mom and dad?  
9. Who cares about your neighbor?  
10. Who cares about your teachers?  
11. Who cares about your mail carrier?

**PRAYER/SNACK:** Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving over the snack. Have the children provide different ways that demonstrate God's caring for them. Thank Him for His concern.

**CLOSING ACTIVITY: GIVING AND RECEIVING (Materials: a sticker sheet per child, paper)**

***The children will enjoy an activity that will demonstrate how to give and receive.***

**WHAT YOU WILL DO:** Today, we will do a fun activity that teaches us how to give and receive. Give each child a sticker sheet and a piece of paper. Have the students write their names on the top of their papers.  
  
**WHAT YOU WILL SAY:** Each of you will have one sticker sheet and a piece of paper. You are going to give away all your stickers, by placing them on other classmates' papers. Make sure to share your stickers with each of your classmates.  
  
Each time you give your sticker to someone say, “I would like to give you a sticker.”  
Each time someone gives you a sticker you say, “Thank you.”  
  
**Discussion Questions:**  
1. How did it feel to give your stickers away? *(Glad to share.)*  
2. How did you feel when you received stickers from your classmates? *(Happy.)*  
3. What other areas of our lives can we share with others?*(Our love of God, time, money, friendship, etc.)*  
4. Can you think of any examples in the Bible where we are told to share? *(There are many, here are three examples: Luke 3:11, Romans 12:13, 1 John 3:17.)*5. Does God want us to be generous when we share with others?*(Yes.)*

**Top of Form**

**Bottom of Form**

**What We Learned:** Today, your child learned that Nehemiah continued to partner with God. He finished restoring the walls in Jerusalem, but as he built, he also helped to bring justice to the poor in Jerusalem. (Scripture used: Nehemiah 5:1-12.)   
 **Words to Remember:** "He who gives to the poor will lack nothing." Proverbs 28:27 NIV Practice this verse several times with your child during the week. This will help your child to remember the verse, and it will help to reinforce what he or she learned during class.   
 **Suggested Parent/Child Activity:** Read Nehemiah 5:1-12. After reading this passage, discuss with your family how you can show kindness and care for the poor in your community. Make a list of ways you can serve others and decide on one sharing activity to do as a family this month.   
 **Daily Prayer:** Dear Lord, You are a caring God. Thank You for thinking about me numerous times throughout my day. Help me think of others and serve others to bring You glory. Amen.