LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION"

(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Nehemiah 1:1-2:20 (pgs. 495-497) Nehemiah 4:1-6:16 (pgs. 498-500)

CHARACTER WORD

<u>Determination</u> - To continue on, regardless of the circumstances

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can be <u>determined</u> to complete what God has asked me to do because God is with me.

MEMORY LINK

Nehemiah 4:14b "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome." (KBC Study Bible pg. 498)

SUPPLIES NEEDED THIS WEEK

GET CONNECTED Balls

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY Option 1: Index cards Option 2: Voice Choice (Resources)

BIBLE CONNECTION None

SURF TEAM LEADER Memory link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens

> MAKE-IT-STICK REVIEW GAME Option 1: Cups, tape Option 2: Balls

Nehemiah Builds a Wall

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Obstacles in life often make our <u>determination</u> waiver and they make it tough to complete what God has asked us to do. Life is hard. We face disappointment all the time. People let us down, we lose a job, a loved one is battling a disease, or maybe our child is dealing with a bully.

Psalm 115:9 says, "O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield." When we face those tough days, we can put our trust in the Lord. When we face our worst fears, the Lord will shield us. Psalm 99:3 says, "Let them praise Your great and awesome name — He is holy." The <u>determination</u> to keep going can be found in God. We can be <u>determined</u> to complete what God has asked us to do because God is with us. He is great and awesome.

GET CONNECTED



Building relationships in Surf Teams; introducing today's lesson

Balls

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the kids in your Surf Team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Today's character word is <u>determination</u>. What does <u>determination</u> mean?
- When do we need <u>determination</u>? (when something is hard or takes a long time to complete)
- Let's play a game that requires <u>determination</u>. Choose two students who will work together to carry a ball around the surf team while touching the ball only with the body part you call. (For example if you call "head," the two kids will place the ball between their two heads and work to keep the ball in place as they walk around the circle.) Repeat as time allows.

Guide clubbers to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

Worship Tip

The Memory Link this week declares that the Lord is great and awesome. Look for songs that include words or phrases that reinforce the Memory Link or includes words from the verse. Take time to point out the great and awesome character of God as you sing each song. You may say, "Did you sing any words that reminded you of how awesome and great God is?"

MEMORY LINK



Teach a Bible verse to clubbers; help them memorize the verse

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Today's Memory Link in found in the book of Nehemiah. Let's find Nehemiah by looking in the Table of Contents. Open your Bible to page vii and raise your hand when you find the Table of Contents. Now look in the Old Testament section. Can you find Nehemiah? What page is Nehemiah on? (495) Now turn to Nehemiah on page 495. Do you see the Bible Explorers section at the top of the page? This section can be found at the beginning of each book and tells us some facts about the book. Read in the first paragraph to find what the name "Nehemiah" means. (God is Comfort) Great job! You showed <u>determination</u> by finding Nehemiah.

Focus on today's Memory Link 📖

Nehemiah 4:14 has 3 parts- a, b and c. Our Memory Link today is part b. Turn in your Bibles to page 498 and follow along as I read. Read the entire verse aloud. What does Nehemiah tell the people to remember? (The Lord, great and awesome.) Nehemiah used these words to encourage the people to keep on going. <u>Determination</u> means to continue on, regardless of the circumstances. No matter what comes against us, we can be <u>determined</u> to complete what God asks us to do because God is with us. Have you ever felt overwhelmed with school work? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.) Have you ever faced a bully? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.) Have you ever thought about giving up? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.)

Option 1 - BUILD A WALL

Index cards

Place cards in random order face down in the middle of the surf team. On a signal, encourage the kids to turn the cards over and build a wall by placing the cards in correct order as they stack the cards 3 across and 4 down. When words are in order, the team should stand and cheer. Turn the cards over and shuffle them. Ask the kids to rebuild the wall by stacking the cards 4 across and 3 down. When the verse is in order, they can stand and cheer again. Repeat as time allows.

Option 2 - VOICE CHOICE

Voice Choice (Resources)

Put the Voice Choice list in the center of the surf team. Divide the kids into pairs. Allow each pair to choose a voice from the Voice Choice list. Encourage each pair to take turns saying the Memory Link to each other using their voice choice. Encourage the pairs to try all the various voice choices while saying the verse as many times as possible during the time allotted. **Nehemiah 4:14b** "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome."

LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION"

(page 2)

(KBC Study Bible pg. 498)

Teaching Tip

Since the Memory Link activity has 2 options each week, be sure to communicate to the Surf Team Leaders about which option you have chosen. Share a brief explanation as to how you will lead the activity Give the leaders the index cards or other items needed for the activity at the start of session so transition to the activity will be quicker later in the session.

BIBLE CONNECTION



Teaching today's character word through gospel-centered Bible story

No supplies needed

Introduce the Story

Raise your hand if you have ever seen a Disney Movie. (Allow students to respond.) Walt Disney started the whole Disney company, but he wasn't always successful. He was fired from his first animation job. But he didn't give up. He showed <u>determination</u> and finally became successful. The Bible is full of stories of people who showed <u>determination</u> while following God's plan. Today we will learn about one of those people. His name was Nehemiah.

Nehemiah 1

Guide the kids to open their Bibles to Nehemiah 1 (page 495).

Nehemiah was a captive living far away from home. One day one of his countrymen came from back home in Jerusalem. Nehemiah asked him about their homeland. His countryman said that the people were in great distress and the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burned. Nehemiah was very sad when he heard this. He sat down and wept for many days. But Nehemiah did not give up hope. He fasted and prayed. Look at verse 5 and 6. Let's see what Nehemiah said to the Lord. (Read 5-6a aloud.) Nehemiah was <u>determined</u> to ask for God's help.

Nehemiah 2:1-10

Nehemiah was a cupbearer for the king of Persia. That meant he tasted anything the king was going to drink or eat. One day when Nehemiah was working, the king noticed Nehemiah was sad. Listen while I read their conversation in Nehemiah 2:2-8 (page 496). Read the passage aloud. Nehemiah was <u>determined</u> to help his home city. He went as far as asking the king for some letters so he could get supplies and have safe passage.

Talk About It

Nehemiah prayed to God and trusted God would help him find a way to help rebuild Jerusalem. God gave Nehemiah favor with the king, who provided supplies and connections to help Nehemiah. Nehemiah knew it was God who helped him. God's help gave Nehemiah <u>determination</u> to move forward with this important work.

Nehemiah 2:11-2:20

When Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, he quietly looked around and saw the destruction. He was <u>determined</u> to do the job so he said to the people, "Let's build the wall! The Lord is with me and I have the support of the king." The people agreed and got to work. Some officials were not happy that Nehemiah had come to rebuild the wall. They laughed and mocked those who were working. Again Nehemiah showed <u>determination</u>. He did not let those who mocked him keep him from completing what God had called him to do. Instead Nehemiah told the bullies that God was with him and his people.

Nehemiah 4:1-6:16

The people worked with all their hearts and built up the wall until it was half as high as they wanted it to be. But they still faced problems. Other people living in that area still wanted God's people to stop building the wall. They still did everything they could to cause problems and get in the way. Once again

Teaching Tip

Do all you can to help keep kids stay focused on the Bible story. You don't have to call on every child who wants to answer a question. Keep discussion and questions to a minimum during the large group teaching time. Remind kids they can ask their Surf Team leader questions following the Bible story.

LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION"

(page 3)

Nehemiah had to make a choice. He could decide it was too dangerous and quit or he could trust God and continue working. What do you think he did? (Allow for responses.) He showed <u>determination</u> and kept going.

Nehemiah was sure God wanted them to build that wall. What did Nehemiah tell the people in our Memory Link? He reminded the people they didn't have to be afraid because God is great and awesome. Nehemiah assigned the families to work on the wall. Each family worked on the wall near their house. Because those people were conspiring against them and planned to attack the walls, Nehemiah <u>determined</u> to make a new plan. Half the people worked while the other half stood ready to fight with their swords and spears. Using this plan and with God's help they were able to finish the wall in 52 days.

Talk About It

Several times Nehemiah could have chosen to give up. But he was <u>determined</u> to finish the job God wanted him to do. Nehemiah was faithful and God performed a miracle. Without God's help, it would have been impossible for the people to rebuild the wall in such a short amount of time and while fighting off their enemies. But God was with them helping them.

Gospel Connection

Nehemiah was faithful and God performed a miracle. Without God's help, it would have been impossible for the people to rebuild the wall in such a short amount of time and while fighting off their enemies. But God was with them helping them.

When Jesus came to fulfill God's plan, it was not easy for Him. But Jesus was <u>determined</u> to pay the price for our sins just like He promised. Jesus endured the cross and took the punishment for sin you deserve. Through Jesus, God offers you a new life with Him. You can receive that new life when you ADMIT that you are a sinner and ASK Jesus to forgive your sin. BELIEVE that Jesus' died on the cross to pay for your sin and He rose from the dead, defeating sin forever. CONFESS your faith in Jesus and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW God's way rather than your own way. What will you <u>determine</u> to do?

Lead the kids to find the tip-in section "God Loves You and Has a Plan for Your Life" (between pages 626-627). Encouarge the kids to follow along as you use these pages as an outline to explain God's plan of salvation.

Invite children wanting to know more about becoming a Christian to move to the designated area to meet with a leader one-on-one.

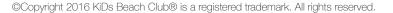
Application/Transition

Remind the kids that following Jesus isn't always easy, but they can be determined to do what God asks them to do because He is always with them. Guide the kids to restate today's Memory Link as an encouragement to be determined to live God's way at school and at home.

Gospel Tip

When talking to a child about salvation, ask open-ended questions. Avoid yes or no questions. Children can often tell by the inflection of your voice if you are hoping for a "yes" or "no" answer. Open-ended questions will allow you to get a glimpse of the heart of the child. Rephrase the question if the child has difficulty answering it.

LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION" (page 4)



SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with kids in small groups; applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION" (page 5)

Memory Link Cards, Hang 10 page, Index cards, pens

Gospel Connection

Before you begin, ask if there are any clubbers who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.

Today's Lesson

- What questions do you have about today's story?
- How did Nehemiah show determination in today's Bible story?
- What about God helped Nehemiah to stay determined?
- Describe what Jesus' determination has done for us.

Pray

Give the kids an opportunity to write prayer requests on index cards. Take the cards home and pray for their needs this week.

Dear Heavenly Father, You are great and awesome. Thank You for helping us when we face difficult times. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Use the Bible

Give each child a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide kids to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles. Lead them to highlight today's Memory Link.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each child a Hang 10 page. Challenge kids to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage kids to bring back their Hang 10 page next week.

More at Home

Encourage clubbers to write the Memory Link on a piece of paper and post it somewhere at home where they will see it everyday. Think about how this verse helps you to be <u>determined</u>. Sometime during the week record on the paper how the verse helped you to be <u>determined</u>. Share one way you showed <u>determination</u> with a parent or teacher.

Teaching Tip

Be a team player. Before club each week take time to review the entire lesson, not just your part. Read the story and Memory Link ahead of time and mark them in your Bible. Be available to help as needed before, during and after club time. Pray not only for the kids in your Surf Team, but also for everyone in your club.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Game to review today's Bible Connection & Character Word



LESSON 19 "DETERMINATION" (page 6)

Option 1 - BUILD THE WALL RELAY

Cups, tape

Prepare

Use the tape to mark a starting point and finish line. Stack 10 cups at the finish line for each team.

Call for teams to line up behind the starting point. On a signal, ask the first person in each team to run to the finish line. At the finish line they must build a wall using 10 cups. Then they must re-stack all 10 cups together (reset) and run back to the starting point. The first person to reach the starting point gets a chance to answer a question. Play until all kids have had a chance to build the wall or until time runs out.

Option 2 - DETERMINATION CARRY

Balls

Remind kids of the game they played during Get Connected. Call for teams to line up. Ask each kid to connect with a partner standing next to them on their team. On a signal, the first pair in each team must carry the ball to a marked spot then carry it back. Explain that the ball must be carried between them touching only the body part you call. The first pair to return to their team gets a chance to answer a question. Call these body parts: head, elbow, arm, hip, back, shoulder. Continue play as time allows.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. What is today's character word? (Determination)
- 2. Is today's Memory Link in the Old or New Testament? (Old)
- 3. According to our memory link what should we remember? (The Lord is great and awesome)
- 4. What job did Nehemiah do for the king? (Tasted what the king ate and drank to protect him)
- 5. Besides feeling sad what did Nehemiah do when he heard the news about Jerusalem? (He prayed)
- 6. Where did Nehemiah want to go? (Jerusalem, his home town)
- 7. What did Nehemiah set out to rebuild? (The wall)
- 8. What problems did Nehemiah face while rebuilding the wall? (It was a big project, bullies)
- 9. Nehemiah's plan called for half the people to do what? (Half to work while half guarded them)
- 10. How many days did it take to rebuild the wall? (52)

Teaching Tip

If you are having difficulty with kid participation, survey your approach to the game. If you approach games with enthusiasm and are interactive and playful with the kids, they will often respond in kind. Also, be prepared and ready to go when it's time to start the review game. Kids can sense when you are not prepared and you may lose their attention which will delay the start.



"Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome."

Nehemiah 4:14b KBC Study Bible page 498