

WISE

WEEK 4

BIG IDEA

We can ask God our questions.

BIBLE

Nehemiah Asks to Rebuild the Wall:
Nehemiah 2:1-20; (Matthew 14:22-32)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT?

ACTIVITY | Yes or No ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have all the kids stand on one side of the room, and you stand on the other side. Think of a person, place, or object in your head. Have kids take turns asking you one yes/no question to help identify the item– for example, "Is it in the room?" or "Is it blue?". For each "yes," the entire group gets to take a step forward, for each "no," they stay where they are. Keep going until the group can guess what the item is, or until they reach you, at which point you can just reveal what it was. Repeat as desired (or have kids take turns taking your role).*

ACTIVITY | Have You Ever? ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have everyone stand up. Ask a series of questions, and anyone who has ever done what the question is asking, they sit down. Play until everyone is sitting (or only one or two kids are left standing). You could also do this activity with ten fingers, with kids putting down one finger for each activity they have done. Feel free to add your own questions to suit your group, but we have included some suggestions, as well. You can ask things like, "Have you ever. . ."*
 - Gone to an amusement park?
 - Gotten a stomachache?

- Broken a bone?
- Bought something with money you saved up?
- Ridden a bicycle or a scooter?
- Been to the zoo?
- Had a pet?
- Slept over someone else's house?
- Performed in front of a large audience?
- Played in a sports team?
- Watched two movies in a row?
- Taken public transportation anywhere?

QUESTION | What's Your Question? ▲

- **What is one question you've been wanting to ask but you were too scared or embarrassed to ask?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a notecard and instruct them to write down their question on the notecard. Tell them to keep their questions anonymous by not writing their names on their cards. Provide a poster board/wall for the kids to tape their cards on. Encourage the kids to read each other's questions.*

THE BIG IDEA | We can ask God our questions. ▲

- **we can ask God our questions!**

SO WHAT?

VIDEO | Wise, Episode 4 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

SCRIPTURE | Nehemiah 2:1-20 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the Bible passage aloud and encourage the kids to read along with you. Each time you come across a question in the passage, pause and let the kids shout, "good question!" before continuing.
- Nehemiah wanted to follow God and rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. First, he had to get permission from King Artaxerxes.
- **What big questions did Nehemiah have before he re-built Jerusalem's walls?**
- Surely, it was not an easy task! But Nehemiah knew he had already done the hard part – he already came to God. This shows us we can go to God with our questions.
- **What did the people think of Nehemiah when he decided to re-build the temple?**

VIDEO | Nehemiah ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this video](#), "God's Story: Nehemiah" by Crossroads Kids' Club.

OBJECT LESSON | What is This? ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Select a common everyday household item such as an umbrella, cheese grater, tennis racket, and the like. Hold up the item and tell kids to pretend they don't know what the item's actual purpose is, and suggest different uses for it. For example, the umbrella could be used as a cane, or storage for stuffed animals. A tennis racket could be a stringed instrument. Suggestions can get pretty silly, which is part of the fun!
- It's important we ask God our questions because sometimes we need to ask God to show us a new perspective when we don't understand what we are seeing or experiencing.

SCRIPTURE | Matthew 14:22-32 ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage aloud and encourage the kids to read along with you.
- **Why were the disciples afraid when they saw Jesus?**
- Sometimes, when Jesus asks us to do something unfamiliar, we can become afraid.
- **How do you think Peter felt when he began sinking into the water?**
- This story often identifies the doubt and questioning Peter feels when he starts walking on the water. But Jesus doesn't get angry at Peter when he starts to doubt. Jesus reaches down and picks Peter back up.
- Jesus shows us that we can go to God for anything, including when we have a question about something.

NOW WHAT?

RESPONSE | Do You Believe It? ▲

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Stand in the middle of the room and ask kids to stand behind you if they think a statement is true, and in front of you if they think it is false.

• **Have you ever heard something you didn't quite believe, something that you questioned?** I'm going to read you a list of questions, and I want you to tell me if you think they are true or false.

- Penguins can smell toothpaste from miles away. (False)
- In Tokyo, Japan, a bicycle is faster than a car for trips of less than 50 minutes. (True)
- 50 years ago, M&Ms were candy-coated peas during a chocolate shortage. (False)
- When glass breaks, the cracks move faster than 3,000 miles per hour. (True)
- A violin contains about 70 pieces of wood. (True)
- In Japan, they have square watermelons there because they stack better. (True)

ACTIVITY | In the Form of a Question ▲

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids some of the questions to review the Wise series, and throw in some random trivia questions, too. But like the famous quiz show, Jeopardy!, kids must answer in the form of a question. For example: you would say, "The king who asked God for wisdom." And kids would respond with, "Who is Solomon?" (For added fun, create a quiz board using Powerpoint templates or an online game generator like [this one](#).) Here are some questions you could ask:

- The king who asked God for wisdom. (Who is Solomon?)
- What Solomon had brought into the temple he was building. (What is the Ark of the Covenant?)
- What two women were arguing about in front of Solomon. (What is a baby?)
- Two things we learned this month that we can ask God for. (What are the right words and our questions?)
- The cup-bearer to Artaxerxes, (Who is Nehemiah?)
- The city Nehemiah wanted to rebuild the walls of. (What is Jerusalem?)
- The book, chapter, and verse of this month's memory verse that says: "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God. . . and it will be given to you." (What is James 1:5?)

PRAYER ▲

- Dear God, Thank You for listening to and answering our questions. Remind us to always come to You with our questions. We know that the more we ask You, the more we will get to know about You!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Who encouraged Nehemiah to go visit Jerusalem?**
- **Why was Nehemiah so upset by what he found in Jerusalem?**
- **How did Nehemiah respond when people mocked him?**
- **Re-read Nehemiah 2:7-8. Why was it wise of Nehemiah to ask these questions to the king?**
- **Why do we sometimes hesitate to ask questions?**
- **Why is it important to ask questions?**
- **What are some questions you have for God?**

ACTIVITY | Delayed Questions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute this week's printable and something to write with. Give everyone some time to complete the questionnaire. Once completed, have kids pair up, with one person as the question giver, and the other one answering the questions. However, the kid providing the answers, gives the answer to the next question, not the current question. So if they were asked question #2, they would give their answer to question #3. For example, "Q: What city do you live in?" "A: Dark blue." Have kids go through all the questions this way (using answer #1 for question #10), then swap roles.*
- God knows our questions before we ask them, but God often won't answer us until we ask. So let's not hesitate to ask God our questions!