

Animated Toddler & Preschool

Week 4: Online

BIG IDEA

Because of God, I can feel valued.

BIBLE

Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Walls: Nehemiah 2:1-6, 11-18

SCRIPTURE | Nehemiah 2:1-6; 11-18 (Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Walls)

- This video comes from the movie, *Toy Story 4*.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) clip from "Toy Story 4" before telling the Bible story. For the Scripture readings, feel free to use an easy-to-understand Bible translation of your choice. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- This story about Bonnie and Forky tells us a little bit about value. Value is not always about money. It's about what makes something or someone special and important to someone else.
 - Bonnie was probably feeling very sad at her new school. Nobody seems to want to talk to her or even share supplies.
 - But when Woody gets her a few things from the trash can, she makes a cool new friend, Forky!
 - Forky was special to Bonnie not because he was an expensive toy, but because she made Forky. That's it! Forky thought he was nothing more than pieces of trash, but Bonnie's love for Forky gave him his value.
- The story of Nehemiah from the Bible shows us how God sees value.
- Nehemiah used to live in Jerusalem, but now he lived very far away and had a very important job working for the king of Persia.
 - One day, Nehemiah found out the walls around Jerusalem had been destroyed. His hometown was in trouble and no one was doing anything about it!
 - Hearing this caused Nehemiah to be very, very sad. He prayed to God and asked for help.
- God valued Nehemiah so much, God helped Nehemiah in some big ways!
 - *[Read Nehemiah 2:1-6.]*
- God helped Nehemiah be brave enough to talk to the king, who was Nehemiah's boss. And even though the king wanted to keep Nehemiah around, he saw that going back to Jerusalem was very important to Nehemiah. So, the king let Nehemiah go back home!
 - *[Read Nehemiah 2:11-16.]*
- When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and saw with his own eyes how badly everything was destroyed, it was so much worse than he thought.
- And no one, not one single person, was doing anything about it. But God gave Nehemiah a plan.
 - *[Read Nehemiah 2:17-18.]*
- Building the wall again wasn't Nehemiah's job at all. He probably didn't think he was important enough to rebuild the walls.
 - **Do you think you could rebuild a big wall on your own without any help?**
- Well, Nehemiah prayed to God for help and direction, and God once again helped Nehemiah.
- Nehemiah was able to do all of this because he knew God was with him. And because of this, Nehemiah felt valued by God!

BIG IDEA | Because of God, I can feel valued.

- Let's all say the Big Idea together: **Because of God, I can feel valued.**

VIDEO | Animated, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).*

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before prayer time each week, play this emoji music video, "[Jesus Loves Me](#)," and have kids sing along.*
- God, thank you for giving me value. I know I am valued because you made me and you love me. Help me to value others just as much as you value me. Amen.

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **What happened to Nehemiah's hometown of Jerusalem?**
- **What did Nehemiah ask the king?**
- **Who lets us know we're valued?**

MEMORY VERSE | Romans 15:13a (NIV)

- **"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have the kids sing Romans 15:13a to the tune of a famous animated movie song. To get things started, we recommend "[Heigh Ho](#)" from "Snow White," but you can also select a more recent and fun option your kids know. Alternatively, feel free to repeat any of the memory verse activities from previous weeks that your kids especially enjoyed.*