

Animated Elementary & Preteen

Week 4: Online

BIG IDEA

Because of God, I can feel valued.

BIBLE

Nehemiah Rebuilds Jerusalem's Walls: Nehemiah 2:1–6, 11–18; 1 Timothy 6:6–19

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

- **Has anyone ever seen one of the animated movies of *Toy Story*?** There are four parts to *Toy Story* and today, we're going to look at one clip that shows a big, animated emotion. See if you can guess what it is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) clip from "Toy Story 4" before telling today's Bible story. For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- **Can anyone guess our big, animated emotion today?** It's feeling valued!
- Bonnie probably felt like nobody at her new school valued her friendship or even knew she was there! She didn't know what to do and probably felt like she had nothing to contribute to the class.
- But when Woody secretly got her all those art supplies, she realized she could find value in herself, even if no one else recognized it.
- On top of all that, Bonnie built a spectacular new pal, Forky, and valued him as a special toy even though he was mostly made out of trash.
- So, how does this all tie together with our Bible story? Well, the prophet we're talking about today, named Nehemiah, had a similar problem. Nehemiah was probably really lonely — and he might've even felt helpless to do anything about it. Let's take a look at his story.
- Nehemiah lived far away from his hometown of Jerusalem. He 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 incredibly sad. He prayed to God and asked for help. God valued Nehemiah so much and helped him in some big ways!
- *[Read Nehemiah 2:1–6.]*
 - God gave Nehemiah the words and confidence to talk to the king, who was his boss, and not only get permission to go to Jerusalem, but the king helped make the trip as easy as possible, including paying for most of what he needed!
- *[Read Nehemiah 2:11–16.]*
 - When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and saw with his own eyes the destruction, 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.]*
 - Rebuilding the wall wasn't Nehemiah's responsibility at all. But Nehemiah loved Jerusalem, and he saw value in his hometown. So, Nehemiah prayed to God for help and direction, and God once again helped Nehemiah.
- Nehemiah was filled with confidence to lead the people of Jerusalem to take on the ginormous task of rebuilding. He was able to do 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.**

SCRIPTURE | 1 Timothy 6:6–19

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read 1 Timothy 6:6–19 together. For younger kids, choose a few verses you want to emphasize. For older kids, have them use their Bibles or consider providing them with a printout of the verses and a pencil or pen they can use to circle words that pop out to them as you read.*
- The world places value on things we don't need to bother with. The writer of this letter, Paul, explains to Timothy that God wants us to see some things as extremely valuable.
- Just imagine finding a \$100 bill laying on the ground. **What would you think?** I'd think, "Wow! That's worth a lot. That's something worth keeping!"
- But you know what has infinitely more value? The things of the heart — things like making wise choices, following the example of Jesus, having faith, loving others, being patient, and being kind.
- One time, Jesus went up on a hill and began telling people basically everything they — and we — need to know.
- Right as Jesus was talking, Jesus started discussing treasure. Now, Jesus wasn't talking about the stuff on pirate ships — Jesus was talking about what we value, like in the scripture we just read.
- *[Read Matthew 6:21.]*
- Jesus told the people instead of placing value on material things, they should value things related to God.
- Jesus said we have to choose between treasure here and now or treasure in heaven. And Paul, in this letter, is saying the same thing to Timothy.
- Your value doesn't come from what you have, what you can do, who your family is, or where you go to school. Your value comes from the fact that God loves you.
- And since our value doesn't come from things on Earth, we shouldn't be so fixated on those things. We can choose treasure in heaven and grow in our relationship with God because, in the end, that's what really matters.

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 "We Don't Talk About Bruno" from the movie, "Encanto." Feel free to pick a few songs if there are more recent and fun options your kids would know. (Don't forget to also check out the memory verse signs — a combination of SEE and ASL — available in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Romans15-13a.)*

PRAYER

- God, thank you for giving me infinite value. Help me to believe in my own value and live it out every day. Help me to see those around me as you see them. Show me what I, like Nehemiah, can rebuild in this broken world because of the confidence you give me. Amen.

DISCUSSION

- **What happened to Nehemiah's hometown?**
- **What did God tell Nehemiah to do?**
- **What are some things Nehemiah would have to do to follow through with God's instructions?**
- **Read 1 Timothy 6:17. According to the writer of this letter, where should we, as children of God, find value?**
- **How do you treat things (or people) you value differently from things you don't value?**
- **What would be one way of treating others the way God values them?**
- **What's one thing you can do to treat yourself like you have infinite value?**