

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE WEEK OF: JUNE 29, 2008

VBX SUNDAY

REV: KRISTEN GEPHART

“ROCK THE WORLD”

VBX 2008 Memory Verse: **Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful.”**
Nehemiah 4:14 (NirV)

VBX 2008 Motto: **ROCK the World!**

Notes:

We had an amazing VBX again this year! What an example of how the Body of Christ is supposed to function. We sent parent support emails each day in the morning to help families make connections with what the children were experiencing.

Here is a taste of what they received:

Ways you can support your child:

- Read through the book of Nehemiah in the Bible so you'll have an idea of what we're studying
- Pray for your child, that God would draw him/her closer and use this experience to trigger spiritual development
- Use the daily emails as a guide to facilitate conversation with your child. Sharing personal examples and family stories builds trust and ultimately deeper relationship and deeper impact in your child's life.

It is a JOY to partner with you this week!

VBX 2008 Memory Verse: **Remember the Lord. He is great and powerful.”**
Nehemiah 4:14 (NirV)

VBX 2008 Motto: **ROCK the World!**

Nehemiah... “Rocked the World”

Jesus..... “Rocked the World”

We can..... “Rock the World”

Monday – Building Day #1: Compassion/ROCK the World

Nehemiah had compassion for Jerusalem and wanted to rebuild a wall around the city.

Today we're learning that **we can have compassion. When we ask God in prayer, our heart can break for what breaks God's heart. He'll help us care deeply about what He cares about and give us what we need to help the situation.**

Check out today's intro. Video go to
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCwOp0Debmw>

Compassion Family Connection

- Read John 8:1-11 together "How did Jesus have compassion and actually take the focus off the woman?"
- Give an example from your life of when someone showed compassion.
- Ask your child if they have felt compassion for someone or experienced someone showing compassion to him/her.
- Who is someone we know or see that God may be calling us to show compassion towards?

Compassion Work-in-Progress

- Continue to pray for your kids to become compassionate
- Look for situations in your days together where compassion is demonstrated...point these out!
- At some point have a conversation about some ways your family could demonstrate compassion together. Narrow it down and commit to one!
Examples: pray for a neighbor for a week, bring a new family cookies, mow the lawn for someone, offer to plant or weed for an elderly neighbor.

Compassion Connection Alternatives For Families w/Younger Children:

- Read the story of Jesus and the Blind Man in an Early Readers' Bible or Beginner Bible. How did Jesus help this man?
- Share a time when you were sad and how someone made you feel better.
- Have you ever had a friend who was sad and you wanted to help them? That is compassion!
- ROLE PLAY together: place a stuffed animal under some furniture in another room...he needs some help getting out. What might he be feeling? What do we all feel about this? How can we help? What would it look like to comfort/help him?

Parent Compassion Connection:

Jesus is clearly our greatest example of compassion.
After reading Nehemiah and John 8:1-11 how did both Nehemiah and Jesus show compassion?

Tuesday – Building Day #2: Responsibility/ROCK the World

Nehemiah understood he had a big responsibility to build the wall well. He made a solid plan, gathered the materials and managed the project and workers.

Today we'll be learning **that we can have Responsibility. With compassion comes great responsibility. When we ask God for help He will help us create a plan to do what He's called us to, help us follow through with it, and overall make a difference.**

To watch today's intro. Video go to
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dl8EyS_uUEw

To watch the Dave Navarra "You Are Loved" interview go to
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SKaS4OLSNeY>

Responsibility Family Connection

- Read John 13:34 together. Jesus freely loves us. When we truly own this love and experience his grace in our lives then we can freely give this love away.
- Give an example from your life of how you show responsibility
- Based on your discussion about compassion, "How can we as a family take responsibility for the compassion God's given us and follow through with our actions?"
 - Examples: letting your little brother have the first turn when I said I'd make it fun for him to play the game. Feeding the dog before Mom does because I said I'd help take care of our new puppy.
- ACTIVITY: give each family member an unlit candle and stand in a dark room. Have one person light their candle. S/he then lights a family member's candle and each person takes a turn lighting another person's.
- Our own light is not different when we pass it on to others. Like love, we don't have to think of it as a scarce commodity, but as something that makes a bigger impact externally when we share it. If we didn't share how would this **not** be responsibility?

Responsibility Work-in-Progress

- Encourage your child to give away one of their "You are Loved" Buttons. You can go online to check out the website to give you more information about these buttons and even request some more free ones for your family. Go to: youarelovedby.com (company created by one of our own Bidwell Pres. College students, Dave Navarra.)
- Continue to pray for your kids to become responsible
- Look for situations in your days together where responsibility is demonstrated...point these out!

Responsibility Connection Alternatives For Families w/Younger Children:

- Learning to obey is one of the biggest responsibilities young children have along with learning to take care of themselves. Ask the following questions:
 - Because they love you, someone in your family asks you to brush your teeth. How can you accept their love? Take responsibility? "OK, I'll go brush my teeth."

Wednesday – Building Day #3: Perseverance/ROCK the World

Nehemiah and the Jews continued building the wall even when the enemies were against them. Nehemiah prayed to God to give him Perseverance.

Today's lesson is very important as we learn that like Nehemiah and especially Jesus, **we can have perseverance. When we ask Him in prayer God will help us to do whatever He's called us to even when it gets tough. We can stick with it with God's help.**

To watch today's intro. Video go to

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT8CsJGD0hA>

Perseverance Family Connection:

- Read together John 17:1-5 Jesus' passion is US! How did he persevere? What was the payoff? For him? For us? For God's kingdom?
- Share a time when you've had to persevere
- Ask your child about an experience they have had or have seen which required perseverance.
 - How did you feel in the beginning?
 - How did you feel in the end?
 - Would you go through it again if you had to? Why? Why not?

Perseverance Work-in-Progress

- If you've created a "family project" where you have compassion, have taken responsibility, talk about how your family may need to persevere through some trials to do what you've set out to do.
- Continue to pray for your kids to be able to persevere.
- Look for situations in your days together where perseverance is demonstrated...point these out!

Perseverance Connection Alternatives For Families w/Younger Children:

- Remember a time you've had to wait. (birthday party, Grandma's visit, cookies in the oven)
 - How does it feel? Does the time go slow or fast?
 - When we know something is good we want it now, it is hard to wait and hard to do the work it may take to get the result we're looking forward to. We have a choice with how we act/persevere.
- What could you do to help love your family in the car while you're driving on a family trip? How could you persevere?

Parent Perseverance Connection:

Responsibility and perseverance are not always "feel good in the moment characteristics." Generally there is a PAY OFF, but it comes later. This can be tough for children to grasp, but helping them take a Long Term view of situations may help support their development.

Thursday – Building Day #4: Cooperation/ROCK the World

Nehemiah had the Jews work in pairs to guard and build so that they could keep building even when their enemies were out to kill them.

Today we are learning that **we can work together. God gives us friends, the Body of Christ, to help us do what he's called us to do. We can get more done working together than if we each work alone.**

To watch today's intro. Video go to
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iy0kZdO7RRM>

Cooperation Family Connection:

- Read together 1 Cor. 12:12-26 Talk about the analogy here. How does a team work together?
- Who is the tallest in our family? Smallest? When is it helpful to have these members as part of our family because of their size? (Reaching the top shelf? Getting the puzzle piece behind the bookshelf?)
- Talk about what is unique about each family member. How is each person gifted? Share your observations with each other. (Who helps us laugh? Organizes? Encourages? Pays attention to the details? Etc.) Use this as a time to affirm how each person in the family uniquely adds to the family.
- Share a time when you've experienced people working together. How did each person contribute?
- ACTIVITY: Make a meal together and have each family member do different roles (planning, shopping, cooking pieces, cleaning). Debrief how this went.

Cooperation Work-in-Progress

- If your family has a project you felt compassion for, have taken responsibility and are persevering through, identify how each person in your family can use their gifts to help live it out.
- Continue to pray for your kids to be able to cooperate
- Look for situations in your days together where cooperation is demonstrated...point these out!

Cooperation Connection Alternatives For Families w/Younger Children:

- Modify the activity above to make ice-cream sundaes if this is easier.
Friday – Building Day #5: Celebration/ROCK the World

When the wall was built, Nehemiah and Ezra planned a giant celebration to remind all the Jews of how much God loves them and wants to be a part of their lives.

Today we'll be learning **we can be reminded of how much God loves us and wants to be a part of our lives when we celebrate together what God is doing. This is a form of worship.**

To watch today's intro. Video go to
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOQwn9QYPe0>

Worship Family Connection:

- When we understand the love God has for us, accept and respond to this love, God will change our hearts and help us live the life he's called us to. He can give us compassion, the ability to be responsible, to persevere, to share all our gifts and skills and cooperate, and finally to worship him.
- In Old Testament times the Israelites would set up an Ebenezer or tower of remembrance to signify something special that God had done or a significant event they wanted to remember. As a family you can do this very thing (at the end of a camping trip, at the end of a special celebration, etc.) Today at VBX all the kids had an opportunity to place a remembrance rock in a pile to mark all that God has done for us this week in VBX..
- Talk about some ways your family can worship/celebrate together. Ideas: Make a list titled, "Thank You God for:" and post on the refrigerator. Challenge the family to come up with 25 additions before a certain time, then try to beat that # of things the next week. Take a bike ride together and share outloud all the things you notice thanking God. Write out a prayer to God together having each person write a portion.

Worship Work-in-Progress

- Continue to pray for your kids to be able to worship
- Look for situations in your days together where worship is appropriate...point these out!

Worship Connection Alternatives For Families w/Younger Children:

- Have your child pick a favorite song. Have everyone sing and dance together.
- Draw a picture to God.

It was so great to connect with your child this week. Thanks for the privilege of partnering with you in his/her spiritual development! Come back for more on Sundays!