

Week 5

Theme: The Architect's plan: God's call to remember it and proclaim it

– God has a big plan and wants us to pass on to others what He has done

Games: Pass it on: Each team has a stack of non breakable objects. The children stand one behind each other. On Go the objects are passed, one by one, under the legs of the first child and over the heads of the second child and so on all the way down the line. Once all objects have made their way under and over, they all have to be passed back UNDER through the legs. First team to pass back all the objects wins.

Relay: Play some kind of team baton relay. If you have a small group you could vary it by being in a circle. If you have a large group, you could have a relay from one end of the room to the other where the children change at each end.

Memory verse: Psalm 119 : 2 *“Happy are those ... who obey him with all their heart”* Line the children up or sit them in a circle. Pass on the memory verse a word at a time by whispering it to the first child and asking them to pass on it down the line. Have the last child speak out the verse. Last person comes to the front and start again. Do this several times to consolidate.

Introduction: To celebrate, the Jewish people would do a circle dance. Try that now. Stand in a circle – an arm around the shoulder of the child either side. Try one step to the right, left foot cross over in front, back foot (right) takes another side step to right, left foot cross over back. Shout “Hey”. Repeat. Once you have got it you could try reversing it to the left or speeding it up!

Story: Based on *Nehemiah 8 : 1-18 , Nehemiah 10 : 1-29 and Nehemiah 12 : 31 – 43*. The story is simplified as a powerplay in the resources!

Application: Ask the children if they ever make New Year resolutions. Do they manage to keep them? When the people heard Ezra reading the Bible, the people were overwhelmed and all promised to change their lives. They were even prepared to sign a covenant (a promise) to show they meant it. Ask the children whether they would be prepared to sign a promise to God in front of everyone in Kingsquad? Produce the scroll from the resources. Read it with the children. Invite those children who would like to sign it to do so. As a leader, take the initiative as Nehemiah did, to sign it.

Prayer: The story says that the people praised God with such joy that they were heard by those who lived far away from the city. If you have some percussion instruments, tambourines etc, conclude your prayers with a percussion Amen! If not, use the Amen from the prayer drill to raise the roof.

Final game: If there is time, play ‘**Pass the Ring**’. Children are in a circle holding a circle of string with a small curtain ring on it. Children try to discretely pass the ring around the circle before the person in the middle guesses where it is.

Song: “*Be happy (Gonna jump up and down)*” **Doug Horley, Lovely Jubbly CD**

Resources: There is a powerplay , application scroll and fun sheet in the resources.

Week 5: Story Powerplay

When the city walls were completed, Nehemiah gathered all the people in one of the streets of the city to worship God.

Ezra the priest and some of the other priests stood on a big wooden platform in front of God's people and read and explained God's law to them. When the people understood the meaning of God's word, they worshipped God in the way that He wanted.

They kept the holy feasts and they were really sorry to God for the bad things they had done. After that the people promised God that they would keep his laws. This promise was written down and Nehemiah and the other chief men wrote their names under it. Nehemiah's name went first.

There was another big gathering of the people: this time to thank God for helping them to build the wall.

What a happy day it was! The wall of Jerusalem was dedicated to God. Thousands of men, women and children, led by Nehemiah and the princes and the priests, praised God with such joy that they were heard by those who lived far away from the city.

After that happy day, Nehemiah carried on governing Judah for some years and then went back to Persia.

Here are some actions to go with the words.

God – Point to heaven

People – Children gather together in groups of 3 and pretend to chat, “*rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb*”

Priests – Hands together in prayer, sing “A-men”

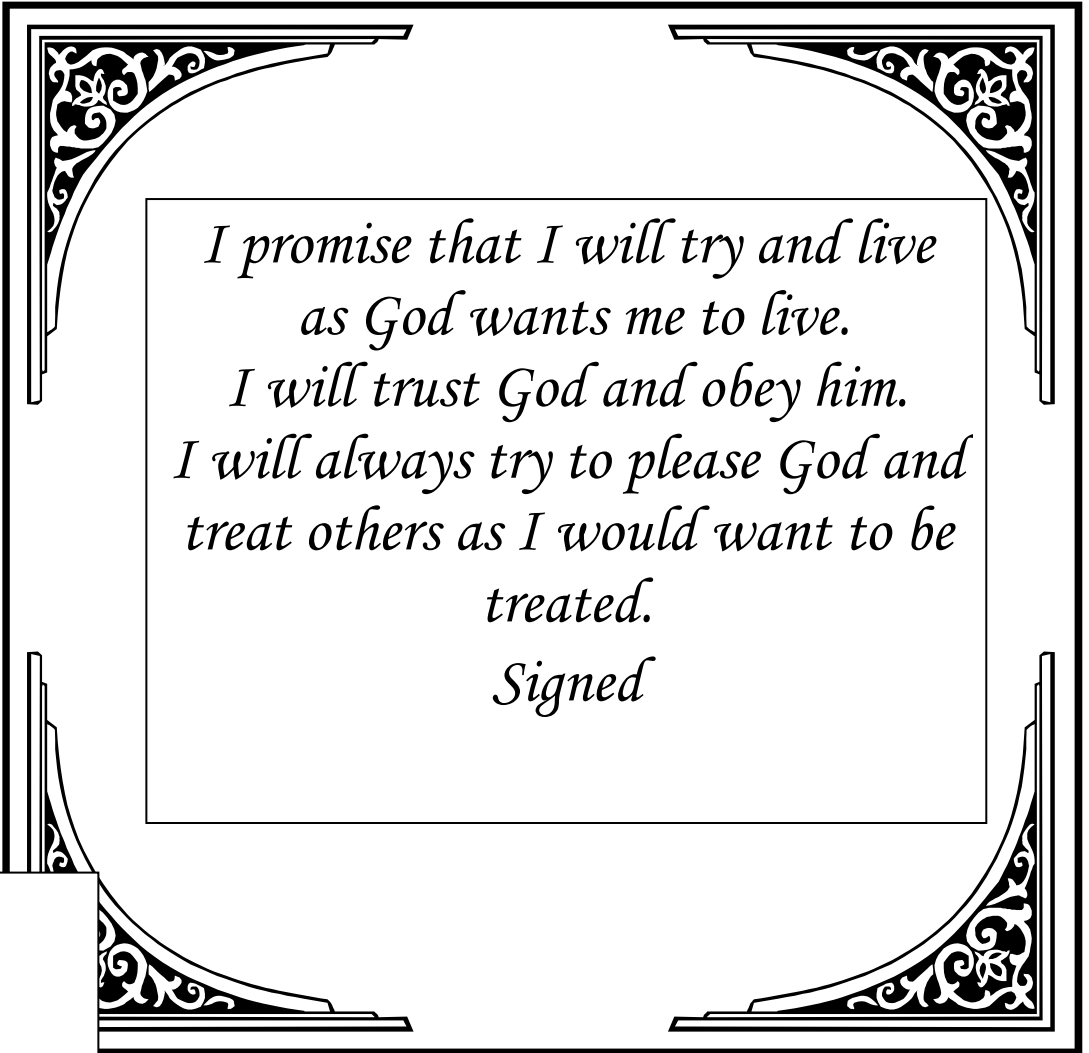
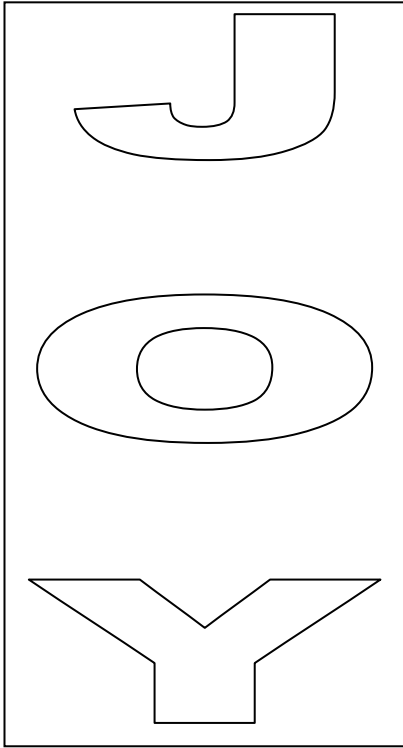
Nehemiah – Use hand to mark out heights. (Knee – high – miah)

We, the children and leaders of Kingsquad, promise that we will try to live according to God's law. We will trust God and obey Him.

We will try our best to always do things that please God and treat others as we would want to be treated.

Signed:

Week 5



When the city walls were completed, Nehemiah gathered the _____ together to _____ God. When the people heard Ezra read the _____ they signed a _____ to say they would _____ their ways. Men, _____ and children praised God with such _____ that they were heard far _____ from the city.

Decorate the frame and sign your name to the promise.

