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## NEHEMIAH

### LESSON 4: RESTORATION TO THE POOR ☆

Lessons in this series: [1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [Overview](#)

*In this lesson, the children will see how God uses Nehemiah to care for both the poor and the Israelites.*

by Kristy Thornton

#### TOPICS

Blessings, Caring, Commitment, Giving, Helping, Integrity, Kindness, Sacrifice

#### AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

**Extend Your Hand (Activity)** [Click here](#)

#### WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

#### BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)

**"He who gives to the poor will lack nothing." Proverbs 28:27 NIV**

Read the scripture aloud to the class. Have them read it with you one more time. Then ask, "who likes to give to others? How do you think God feels when we give to others in need?"

#### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

##### Introduction:

Nehemiah has been God's partner through this entire journey in rebuilding the walls and gates in Jerusalem. Nehemiah doesn't only care about the walls, he also cares about the people's physical health. He wants to make sure that all of God's people had the necessities to live: Food, water, shelter, and clothing. Let's read to find out why God uses Nehemiah to help others.

**Read Nehemiah 5:1-12 (Nehemiah Helps the Poor)** Read these verses using different voices for the different groups of people.

##### Discussion Questions:

1. At the beginning of Nehemiah Chapter 5, the people said, "We and our sons and daughter are numerous." What does this mean? (*There are a lot of people, with many sons and daughters.*)
2. Do you think it cost a lot of money to feed and clothe a family, especially a big family? (Yes.)
3. Many people in Jerusalem are poor and they have to borrow money to pay taxes and interest. Which just makes them poorer. Do you think that people should be treated differently just because they are poor? (*Allow children to respond.*)
4. Is Nehemiah happy or angry with the way poor people were treated in Jerusalem? What does he do? (*He is angry, so he calls a meeting with the nobles and officials.*)
5. Nehemiah told them that what they were doing was not right and they needed to give money back to the poor. How did the nobles and officials respond to the command made by Nehemiah? (*They said, "We will give it back. And we will not demand anything more from them. We will do as you say."*)

#### FUN TIME (15 MINUTES)

**Give to the Poor (Craft)** [Click here](#)

#### ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

**Who Cares? God Cares! (Object Talk)** [Click here](#)

#### PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving over the snack. Have the children provide different ways that demonstrate God's caring for them. Thank Him for His concern.

#### CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

**Giving and Receiving (Activity)** [Click here](#)

#### NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to see how God uses Nehemiah to continue to help His people.

#### TAKE HOME PAGE

Give one copy to each child at the end of the class to take home [PDF]. [Click here](#)

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## WHO CARES? GOD CARES! ☆

**During this discussion, the children will find that God cares about every person, and they should too.**

by Kristy Thornton

### TOPICS:

Behavior, Discernment, Fairness, Judging, Reputation, Self-worth

### MATERIALS:

Small bucket of sand

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Fill your palm with sand and let it pour into the bucket. Do this repeatedly until you are done reading the scripture.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Read Psalm 139:17-18

Did you know that God's thoughts of us are numerous? Just like the people in Nehemiah's story were numerous. There were so many people, yet God's thoughts are even more numerous than the number of people on this earth. How many times do you think God thinks about you? The scripture says that His thoughts outnumber the grains of sand. (*Pause and try to count the grains and get frustrated because there are just too many.*) I cannot even count the grains of sand in this small bucket—let alone all the grains of sand on earth. God thinks about your mom, your dad, your neighbors, your teachers, your mail carrier, etc. God cares for His people.

### Discussion Questions: (All answers will be "God.")

1. Who cares about the people on this earth?
2. Who cares about the children?
3. Who cares about the elderly?
4. Who cares about the poor?
5. Who cares about the sick?
6. Who cares about the needy?
7. Who cares about the hardworking?
8. Who cares about your mom and dad?
9. Who cares about your neighbor?
10. Who cares about your teachers?
11. Who cares about your mail carrier?

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