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IMMEDIATE RESPONSE ☆

The children will have fun responding to certain commands. At the same time, they will connect how Biblical characters immediately responded by praying during both good and bad times.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Faith, Prayer, Trust

MATERIALS:

None

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

When the doctor tests your reflexes by hitting your kneecap, your knee responds immediately. It automatically knows what to do. It kicks your foot out. We need to practice our immediate responses. When we get good or bad news, we need to know exactly what to do.

One biblical example is Nehemiah. He responds immediately when he receives bad news. Can anyone tell me what the bad news was? (*Jerusalem's walls and gates were destroyed.*) How did Nehemiah respond? (*He wept, prayed to God, and fasted.*) Yes, he prayed to God. That needs to be our immediate response when we hear bad news. We need to pray and trust that God is in control. Nehemiah was special to God, so God used Nehemiah to fix the problem. You are also special to God and He might want to use you to help fix a problem.

We are going to practice our responses when we hear good or bad news. I will give you some news. You will have to respond immediately, without hesitating. If you think the news is good, jump up point to God and say, "Praise God." If you think the news is bad, drop to your knees and fold your hands in prayer and say, "Help, God."

Mix up the news you give the kids.

Good News

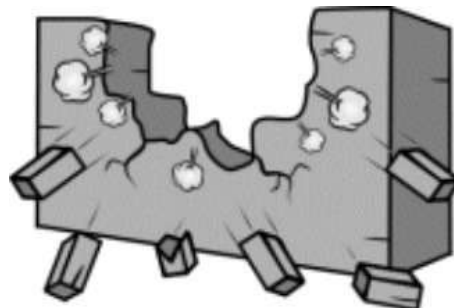
I got a new bike.
I won my soccer game.
My mom is healed.
My dad got a new job.
I read my Bible last night.
I found my dog.
I bought a new house.
My car is fixed.
I found my favorite toy.
I have money to buy groceries.

Bad News

I lost my bike.
I got hurt in my soccer game.
My mom is sick.
My dad lost his car keys.
I forgot to read my Bible last night.
My dog ran away.
I am homeless.
My car broke down.
I lost my favorite toy.
I do not have money to buy food.

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Good or Bad News?



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GOOD OR BAD NEWS? ☆

The children will learn that sometimes we receive good news, whereas other times we receive bad news. Either way, our response to the news is the most important part.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS:

Attitude, Faith, Prayer, Self-Worth, Special

MATERIALS:

Worksheet [PDF] [Click here](#)
Pencil, newspaper

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

(Hold up the newspaper.) This is a newspaper. Reporters and journalist work to report the news each day. Sometimes it is good news, and sometimes it is bad news. We love to get good news, but unfortunately, we have to get bad news sometimes because bad things happen all around us.

Each of you will get a paper with pictures on it. *(Pass out the worksheet.)* Circle the pictures that report good news if someone saw it in the paper. *(Give children time to circle pictures.)* Now, look at the pictures you didn't circle. Those are probably pictures that would display bad news if someone saw them in the newspaper.

What do you do when you hear bad news? *(Allow children to respond.)*

Did you know that the Bible gives us many examples of how to respond to bad news or difficult times? Knowing that God is always there for us should encourage us and give us hope.

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NEHEMIAH

LESSON 1: NEHEMIAH'S RESPONSE ☆

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

In this lesson, the children will see how Nehemiah responds to God's heart and plan. The children will discover that Nehemiah put the needs of his people over his own comfort.

by Kristy Thornton

TOPICS

Behavior, Choices, Faith, Provision, Sacrifice

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 MINUTES)

Good or Bad News? (Activity) [Click here](#)

WORSHIP TIME (5 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

BIBLE VERSE (7 MINUTES)

"My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2 NIV

Complete the Digging Scripture activity with your students to help them learn verses of the Bible.

Digging Scripture (Activity) [Click here](#)

BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

In today's lesson you are going to learn about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah will receive some very important news. We are going to read how Nehemiah partnered with God to fulfill a task that seemed too hard to complete. Nehemiah gave up his own comfortable life as a cupbearer to help meet the needs of his people. Nehemiah went where God told him to go and fix a big problem that others didn't know how to fix. Do you think the news Nehemiah got was good or bad news? Let's read and find out more about the news he received.

Read Nehemiah 1:1-7 & 2:1-6

Discussion Questions:

1. What is the news that Nehemiah received about Jerusalem? Was it good or bad news? (*The wall of Jerusalem was broken down, and its gates burned with fire. It was bad news.*)
2. Who told Nehemiah about the problem? (*Hanani, one of his brothers.*)
3. What was Nehemiah's immediate response? (*He sat down and wept. For days he mourned and fasted and prayed before God.*)
4. Have you ever received bad news? What did you do when you got the news? (*Allow children to respond.*)
5. After Nehemiah prayed about the bad news he received, what did he do next? (*He asked the King if he could go help fix and rebuild Jerusalem.*)
6. Did Nehemiah have to go help fix the walls and gates? (*No. He could have just stayed a cupbearer for the king living in a safe comfortable environment.*)
7. Why do you think Nehemiah asked the king if he could leave his comfortable life and go on a dangerous hard journey to help rebuild Jerusalem? (*Answers may vary. He wanted to be used by God. He felt God's heart for the people and the devastation. He felt lead by God to help. He is following God's plan for his life.*)

FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

Immediate Response (Game) [Click here](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 MINUTES)

God Is My Helper (Activity) [Click here](#)

PRAYER/SNACK (10 MINUTES)

Further info? [Click here](#)

Start by thanking God for providing us so many healthy things to eat and enjoy. Have a snack of vegetables and water.

CLOSING ACTIVITY (10 MINUTES)

My Help Comes from the Lord (Activity) [Click here](#)

NEXT WEEK

Come back next week to continue the story on Nehemiah and see what he does when he sees the destruction in Jerusalem.

TAKE HOME PAGE

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

