



STAR WARRIORS

*"In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps."*

PROVERBS 16:9

WEEK 1

STAR WARRIOR

Nehemiah

BIBLE STORY

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

Nehemiah 1-6

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

When I trust God, He will show me what to do.

SERIES VERSE

"In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps."

Proverbs 16:9 NIV

WEEKLY VERSE

"But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you
and guard you from the evil one."

2 Thessalonians 3:3 NLT



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SKIT INFORMATION

OVERVIEW

The skits will require two people. One person will play him or herself (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to playing the character for the entire series.

CHARACTER BIO

The character's name is Duke Trywalker. Duke's greatest desire is to become a Star Warrior, and he will stop at nothing to reach his goal. Consider putting your character in a tan/brown robe or shirt or a costume. Duke should be carrying his trusty light sword with him at all times.

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SKIT

- Leader:** I'm so excited to get started with our new series, "Star Warriors," today.
- Duke Trywalker:** *Duke comes running in carrying a light sword and begins waving it around in the opposite direction of the leader making sword sounds.*
- Leader:** What exactly is going on?
- Duke Trywalker:** *Continues "fighting" no one and ignores the leader.*
- Leader:** Hello!?! Who are you?
- Duke Trywalker:** Did you just ask me who I am? I would think everyone would know my name by now.
- Leader:** Well, I don't. Kids, do you know who this is? *Allow kids to respond.* See, no one knows who you are. So, who are you?
- Duke Trywalker:** *Strikes a pose.* I am, of course, the greatest Star Warrior *says much quieter under his breath,* in training, EVER!
- Leader:** Wait, did you say Star Warrior in training?
- Duke Trywalker:** Yes, technically, I'm still in the training academy, but I am ready to get out there and fight. *Starts waving around his light sword again.*
- Leader:** Be careful with that! You don't seem quite ready to be a legit Star Warrior to me.
- Duke Trywalker:** Why would you say that? I am at the top of my class; well, I was at the top of my class until I knocked my master's favorite coffee mug on the floor with my light sword and it shattered into a kazillion pieces.

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Leader: That's exactly what I'm talking about. You might actually take someone's eye out with that thing if you aren't careful.

Duke Trywalker: Ok, you might have a point there, but I'm getting better every day.

Leader: Well, that is good, but can I suggest you practice your fighting skills outside, in a big open field, a couple thousand miles away from here? Then I MIGHT feel safe again.

Duke Trywalker: I get your point. I will be way more careful with my light sword when I come to visit you.

Leader: Hold on, did you just say "when" you come to visit? You aren't planning on coming... *Leader gets interrupted mid-sentence by Duke.*

Duke Trywalker: I have to fly! Can't be late to my Star Warrior training course today! I'll see you again next week.

Leader: Oh dear... *Walks off stage.*

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GAME: BALANCE BATTLE

SUPPLIES

- Thick tape (for the floor)
- Foam pool noodles
- Silver and black duct tape
- Heavy duty scissors
- Optional: character masks

SETUP

- Place a thick strip of tape as straight in a line as possible on the floor where you want your battles to take place.
- Create soft foam light swords out of pool noodles. Cut a pool noodle in half as straight as possible. Make one side of the pool noodle the handle by adding black and silver duct tape.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose two kids to play in each round. Try to choose kids that are around the same age/height to battle against each other.
2. Give each kid a foam light sword and a mask (optional), and have them stand facing each other on the tape on the floor.
3. Kids will attempt to distract and knock their opponent off the line of tape using their light sword.
4. The round is over when someone steps off the line of tape.
5. Give a prize or candy to the winner in each round.
6. Choose two new kids to play in each round. Play as many rounds as you like.

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MESSAGE

SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- A goblet
- An envelope with a fake letter inside
- Flashlights
- Hammers and other tools
- Foam light swords (from the game)

SETUP

- No setup is required if you already have the foam light swords made from the game. If not, see the game setup above for instructions on how to make the foam light swords.

INTRODUCTION

Today we are starting a brand new series called “Star Warriors.” Each week we will take a look at amazing men and women from the Old Testament who followed God and did some incredible things with His help. You might even call them Star Warriors. They were not stars or warriors on their own. God’s direction and support helped each of them do things they never could have done by themselves. They would have likely failed in their missions and endeavors without God’s help. Let’s jump right in and check out our first Star Warrior, Nehemiah. Nehemiah’s story is found in his very own book in the Bible that he wrote, also called Nehemiah.

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BIBLE STORY

Turn with me to the first chapter in Nehemiah. **Allow time for the kids to turn to the passage.**

We are going to be taking a look at what happened to Nehemiah and his people in Nehemiah 1-6 today. We won't be reading it all directly from the Bible, but that's where the story takes place. I need two volunteers to get started with our story today. **Choose two kids to come up and play Nehemiah and his brother Hanani. Give Nehemiah the goblet and Hanani the envelope with the letter in it.** At the beginning of our story we find Nehemiah in Persia serving as the king's cup-bearer. Nehemiah was a Jew who originally came from Jerusalem. One day in late fall, Hanani, Nehemiah's brother, came to visit Nehemiah. Unfortunately, he did not come bearing good news. This is what he said. **Have Hanani open up the envelope, pull out the letter and read what it says aloud from Nehemiah 1:3.** "Things are not going well for those who returned to the province of Judah. They are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem has been torn down, and the gates have been destroyed by fire." Nehemiah was devastated when he heard the news about his hometown, Jerusalem, and his people. The Bible says that he cried, fasted, and prayed to God for days about it.

Later, Nehemiah came in to serve the king; the king noticed how sad Nehemiah was, and he asked him what was wrong. Nehemiah prayed to God for wisdom on how to respond and felt God telling him to tell the king about what had happened to the wall in Jerusalem and to his people. The king wanted to help in any way possible! He sent Nehemiah back to Jerusalem to help rebuild the wall with lumber, letters to get him past the authorities on his trip, and soldiers to protect him. Talk about God providing for Nehemiah in that moment! Nehemiah set out for Jerusalem, but unfortunately, not everyone wanted Nehemiah to be there and help rebuild the wall. Nehemiah waited until it was dark one night so no one would know what he was doing and he went to check out the damage that had been done. Nehemiah took a few men with him on his mission. **Choose three more volunteers to come up and help Nehemiah. Give**

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them all flashlights and have them start wandering around the room, inspecting the walls. Nehemiah and his men inspected the broken walls and burned gates, and they came to a unanimous decision: “Yes let’s rebuild the wall!” Nehemiah said, in Nehemiah 2:20, “The God of heaven will help us succeed. We his servants, will start rebuilding this wall.” That’s exactly what they did! **Hand all the volunteers tools and hammers and have them pretend they are building and fixing a wall.** Everyone got to work right away repairing and rebuilding the wall.

Remember those guys who didn’t like Nehemiah or anyone trying to rebuild the wall? Well, they’re back! When the wall was about halfway built, they began making fun of them and threatening them. One even said, “That stone wall would collapse if even a fox walked along the top of it!” Their enemies made plans to come and attack them while they were trying to rebuild the wall. What do you think Nehemiah and the people did when they heard their enemies’ threats? **Allow the kids to respond.** They prayed to God and guarded the city at all times to protect themselves. The people who were rebuilding the wall started to lose hope and began complaining. They were scared of their enemies coming to attack them and they were afraid they would never get the wall rebuilt. Nehemiah encouraged them saying, “Don’t be afraid of the enemy! Remember the Lord, who is great and glorious.” After that, Nehemiah had to split the men in half and one half would stand guard with weapons while the other half continued rebuilding the wall. **Take the tools away from half of the volunteers and give them the foam light swords. Have the other kids continue to pretend to build the wall.** They continued to work constantly, night and day, to rebuild the wall while their enemies continued to threaten them, until one day, the wall was finished. On October 2nd, only fifty-two days after they began building the wall, it was complete. This is the best part. In Nehemiah 6:16 it says, “When our enemies and the surrounding nations heard about it, they were frightened and humiliated. They realized this work had been done with the help of our God.” Let’s give a hand for all our amazing volunteers. **Have all the volunteers go back to their seats.**

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LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

I love that even Nehemiah's enemies, who didn't even know God, knew that the wall had been rebuilt with God's help. They knew that there was no way those men could have rebuilt that whole wall in only fifty-two days while trying to defend themselves without God's help. I believe that Nehemiah was successful because of the way he reacted to every situation. What did Nehemiah do when things were going wrong and everyone around him wanted to give up? **Allow the kids to respond.** He prayed to God. Nehemiah clearly trusted God with everything he had. He knew that he could turn to God and God would show him what to do. We must remember to do the same thing. We may never have to rebuild a giant wall while our enemies try to kill us, but we will face many problems and hard situations in our lives. We must choose if we want to try to deal with what life throws at us on our own, or hand it over to God and trust that he will show us what we should do. I would much rather trust God, the Creator of the universe and everything in it, with my life, than try to go it alone. Let's pray and put our trust in God right now.

Optional: Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.

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GAME: GLOW STICK SEARCH

SUPPLIES

- Two different colors of glow sticks (at least 20 in each color)

SETUP

- Before the kids enter the room, hide the glow sticks around the room.
Optional: hide the glow sticks in another room so the kids won't see them until it's time for the game.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play.
2. Break the kids into two teams and assign them a color.
3. Teams will have 2 minutes to find as many glow sticks in their team color as possible.
4. At the end of the 2 minutes, the team with the most glow sticks wins.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Do you think Nehemiah handled the situation with the wall well? Why or why not?
2. How would you have handled the situation if you were Nehemiah?
3. Do you think Nehemiah would have been able to rebuild the wall and ward off his enemies without God's help? Why or why not?
4. How can you remind yourself to turn to God in prayer first?
5. Optional: Look up these verses and discuss them as a group.
Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 25:4-5, James 1:5

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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of our current series?

Answer: *Star Warriors*

2. What was the name of the Star Warrior in today's Bible Story?

Answer: Nehemiah

3. Why was Nehemiah sad when he visited the king?

Answer: He had just heard about Jerusalem being attacked and the wall being torn down.

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: When I trust God, He will show me what to do.

5. How long did it take Nehemiah and the people to rebuild the wall?

Answer: 52 days