Activity: Builders

FAMILY TIME TRAINING

<u>Teaching Goal</u>**:** God's will is to be the motive for everything we do.

<u>Scripture:</u>   Genesis 11:3-4 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone and tar for mortar. Then they said, "Come let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Nehemiah 2:12 I set out during the night with a few others. I had not told anyone what my God had put in my heart to do for Jerusalem. There were no mounts with me except the one I was riding on.

Nehemiah 2:20 The God of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding…

Nehemiah 6:15-16 So the wall was completed on the twenty-fifth of Elul, in fifty-two days. When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God.

<u>Materials:</u>   2 Bags of small marshmallows
2 Boxes of toothpicks

I.   Lesson and discussion

✓   Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words**.**

A. DISCUSSION: **We are going to talk about builders. Who do we know that is a builder? What do they build?** *Listen to answers.*

In your own words tell the Tower of Babel story from Genesis 11. **In the book of Genesis, a group of people decided to build a tall tower called the Tower of Babel.**

Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 11:3-4. **Who wanted to build this tower?** *Listen to answers.* The people. **Why did they want to build the tower?** *Listen.* To make a name for themselves…to feel important. To not to be scattered…to maintain control.

After they started building the tower, God came down from heaven and scattered the people all over the earth. So they stopped building the tower.

Did God want the tower to be built? *Listen.* No **Was the tower built?** *Listen.* No. **What do we learn about God from the Tower of Babel story?** *Listen.* God is the one with the power and He is in control. If He doesn't want something built, He can stop it.

B. In your own words, tell the story of Nehemiah building the wall. **Later in the Bible we read about another group of builders. There is a whole book in the Bible named after the head builder, Nehemiah, and it tells the story of the Israelites building a wall around the city of Jerusalem.   The city needed a wall to protect the people from being attacked.**

Listen to what the Bible says about building the wall. Invite a volunteer to read Nehemiah 2:12 and Nehemiah 2:20. **From where did the idea of building a wall come from?** *Listen.* **God. Jerusalem was known as God's city and the enemies of God feared having a wall built around the city.** Invite a volunteer to read Nehemiah 6:15-16. **The wall was completed in fifty-two days. Who helped the people build the wall?** *Listen.* God

What do we learn about God from the story of Nehemiah building the wall? *Listen.* If God wants something built, it will be built. He will provide the builders and the enemies of the builders won't be able to stop them.

When we compare the two stories we see that whatever we do—building, playing, eating, sleeping, studying or going to church—we need to do what God wants. Otherwise, it is a waste of time.

C. ACTIVITY: **Using the marshmallows and toothpicks we are going to see who can build the tallest tower. You must use a flat surface; don't lean the tower against anything and only three marshmallows and three toothpicks can be touching on the bottom. Ready? Go!** If you keep building higher and higher, the tower will eventually fall down.

Now we are going to work together to build a small city with a wall around the outside. Using the same marshmallows and toothpicks have part of the group build small houses and another part of the group build a wall to protect the houses. While building, review the lessons from the two Bible stories.

II.   Close in Prayer

III.   Pass It On: Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.