

LESSON 13
“DETERMINATION”
(page 1)



BIBLE CONNECTION

Nehemiah 1:1-2:20 (pgs. 495-497)
Nehemiah 4:1-6:16 (pgs. 498-500)

CHARACTER WORD

Determination - To continue on, regardless of the circumstances

TEACHING OBJECTIVE

I can be determined to complete what God has asked me to do because God is with me.

MEMORY LINK

Nehemiah 4:14b

“Do not be afraid of them.
Remember the Lord, great
and awesome.”
(KBC Study Bible, page 498)

**SUPPLIES NEEDED
THIS WEEK**

GET CONNECTED

Memory Link cards, Hang
10 pages, index cards, pens,
highlighters

MEMORY LINK ACTIVITY

- Option 1: Index cards
- Option 2: Index cards

BIBLE CONNECTION

No supplies needed

SURF TEAM TIME

Memory Link cards, Hang
10 pages, index cards, pens,
highlighters

**MAKE-IT-STICK
REVIEW GAME**

- Option 1: Cups, painter's tape
- Option 2: Beach balls

Nehemiah Builds a Wall

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Obstacles in life often make our determination waiver and they make it tough to complete what God has asked us to do. Life is hard. We face disappointment all the time. People let us down, we lose a job, a loved one is battling a disease, or maybe our child is dealing with a bully.

Psalm 115:9 says, “O Israel, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.” When we face tough days, we can put our trust in the Lord. When we face our worst fears, the Lord will shield us. Psalm 99:3 says, “Let them praise Your great and awesome name — He is holy.” The determination to keep going can be found in God. We can be determined to complete what God has asked us to do because God is with us. He is great and awesome!

GET CONNECTED

Building relationships in surf teams; introducing today's lesson



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, index cards, pens, highlighters

Use the following conversation prompts to get to know the students in your surf team and to introduce today's lesson.

- Today's character word is determination. What does determination mean to you?
- When do we need determination? (when something is hard or takes a long time to complete)
- Activity Option: Play a game that requires determination. Choose two students who will work together to carry the beach ball around the surf team while touching the ball only with the body part you call. (For example, if you call “head,” the two players will place the ball between their two heads and work to keep the ball in place as they walk around the circle.) Repeat as time allows.



Guide students to locate and mark today's Bible Connection and Memory Link in their Bibles, if they brought one, so they can find the pages quickly as directed in the session.

WORSHIP TIME

Pointing students' hearts toward God



The Memory Link this week declares that the Lord is great and awesome. Look for songs that include words or phrases that reinforce the Memory Link or includes words from the verse. Take time to point out the great and awesome character of God as you sing each song. You may say, “Did you sing any words that reminded you of how awesome and great God is?”

Consider these song choices: “How Great is Our God”, by Chris Tomlin; “The Quest” (Daniel 4:3), by Seeds Family Worship

MEMORY LINK

2 Minutes – Teaching the Bible verse to students
8 Minutes – Activity to help them memorize the verse



LESSON 13
“DETERMINATION”
(page 2)

No supplies needed

Focus on the Bible

Today's Memory Link is found in the book of Nehemiah. Let's find Nehemiah by looking in the Table of Contents. Open your Bible to page vii and raise your hand when you find the Table of Contents. Now look in the Old Testament section. Can you find Nehemiah? What page is Nehemiah on? (495) Now turn to Nehemiah on page 495. Do you see the Bible Explorers section at the top of the page? This section can be found at the beginning of each book and tells us some facts about the book. Read in the first paragraph to find what the name "Nehemiah" means. (God is Comfort) Great job! You just showed determination by finding Nehemiah.

Focus on today's Memory Link

Nehemiah 4:14 has 3 parts- a, b and c. Our Memory Link today is part b. Turn in your Bibles to page 498 and follow along as I read. Read the entire verse aloud. What does Nehemiah tell the people to remember? (The Lord, great and awesome.) Nehemiah used these words to encourage the people to keep on going. Determination means to continue on, regardless of the circumstances.

No matter what comes against us, we can be determined to complete what God asks us to do because God is with us. Have you ever felt overwhelmed with school work? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.) Have you ever faced a bully? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.) Have you ever thought about giving up? Say the verse with me. (Say verse aloud.)

Option 1 - BUILD A WALL

Index cards

Prepare: Write one word of the Memory Link verse on each card.

Place cards in random order face down in the middle of the surf team. On a signal, encourage students to turn the cards over and build a wall by placing the cards in correct order as they stack the cards 4 across on the first two rows, 3 across on the next two rows, then 2 across on the top row. When words are in order, the surf team should stand and cheer. Repeat as time allows.

Option 2 - VOICE CHOICE

Index cards

Prepare: On separate index cards write different voices for students to say the Memory Link. Voice choices are: robot, western, alien, Australian, strong man, and little girl.

Put the voice choice cards in the center of the surf team. Divide students into pairs. Allow each pair to choose a card. Encourage each pair to take turns saying the Memory Link to each other using their voice choice. Encourage the pairs to try all the various voice choices while saying the verse as many times as possible during the time allotted.

Nehemiah 4:14b

“Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome.”

(KBC Study Bible, page 498)

Teaching Tip

Learning Bible verses is more than just a time filler. God's word is active, it has the power to change lives. Scientists have found that seeds buried with the Pharaohs will still grow and produce. We trust that when God's word is planted in the hearts of our students, it will produce fruit in their lives for years to come. Memorizing verses isn't just for students. Don't pass up the opportunity to learn these verses, too!

BIBLE CONNECTION

Teaching today’s character word through gospel-centered Bible story



LESSON 13 “DETERMINATION” (page 3)

No supplies needed

Set the Stage

Raise your hand if you have ever seen a Disney Movie. (Allow students to respond.) Walt Disney started the whole Disney company, but he wasn’t always successful. He was fired from his first animation job. But he didn’t give up. He showed determination and finally became successful. The Bible is full of stories of people who showed determination while following God’s plan. Today we will learn about one of those people. His name was Nehemiah.

Tell the Story

Guide students to open their KBC Study Bibles to Nehemiah 1 (page 495). In fact, our Bible story today is found in the book named after Nehemiah because it is his story of how he came to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem.

Nehemiah was a captive, or prisoner, living far away from home. One day one of his countrymen came back from Jerusalem, Nehemiah’s home. Nehemiah asked him about their home. His countryman said that the people were very sad and worried because the walls of Jerusalem were broken down and the gates were burned. Nehemiah was also very sad when he heard this. He sat down and cried for many days. But Nehemiah did not give up hope. He fasted and prayed to the Lord for help. Nehemiah was determined to ask God to help him figure out a way to rebuild the walls.

Nehemiah was a cupbearer for the king of Persia. That meant he tasted everything the king was going to drink or eat. One day when Nehemiah was working, the king noticed Nehemiah was sad. He told the king everything. He went as far as asking the king for some letters to help get him home so he could get supplies and have safe passage to get back to Jerusalem.

God heard Nehemiah’s prayers. He gave Nehemiah favor with the king, who provided supplies and connections to help him. Nehemiah knew it was God who helped him and this gave him the determination to move forward with this important work. Turn to page 496 and look at Nehemiah 2:17-18. Follow along as I read. The Bible goes on to tell us about some bullies that began to mock Nehemiah and the people while they were working. Some of the city officials were also not happy that Nehemiah had come to rebuild the wall. They laughed and mocked those who were working. Again, Nehemiah showed determination. He did not let those bullies keep them from completing what God had called him to do. Instead Nehemiah told the bullies that God was with him and his people.

The people worked with all their hearts and built up the wall until it was half as high as they wanted it to be. But they still faced problems. Other people living in that area still wanted God’s people to stop building the wall. They did everything they could to cause problems and get in the way. Once again Nehemiah had to make a choice. He could decide it was too dangerous and quit or he could trust God and continue working. What do you think he did? (Allow for responses.) He showed determination and kept going.

As You Prepare

Read Nehemiah 1-6:16. Be prepared to tell the highlights and focus on Nehemiah’s determination to rebuild the wall and God’s faithfulness to provide.

Teaching Tip

Do all you can to help students stay focused on the Bible story. You don’t have to call on every person who wants to answer a question. Keep discussion and questions to a minimum during the large group teaching time. Remind students they can ask their Surf Team Leader questions following the Bible story during Surf Team Time.

Nehemiah was sure God wanted them to rebuild that wall. What did Nehemiah tell the people in our Memory Link? He reminded the people they didn't have to be afraid because God was great and awesome.

Nehemiah assigned families to work on the wall. Each family worked on the wall near their house. Because those people were conspiring against them and planned to attack the walls, Nehemiah determined to make a new plan. Half the people worked while the other half stood ready to fight with their swords and spears. Using this plan and with God's help they were able to finish the wall in just 52 days!

Application

Following Jesus isn't always easy, but you can be determined to do what God asks you to do because He is always with you.

Gospel Connection 

Several times Nehemiah could have chosen to give up. But he was determined to finish the job God wanted him to do. Nehemiah was faithful and God performed a miracle. Without God's help, it would have been impossible for the people to rebuild the wall in such a short amount of time and while fighting off their enemies. But God was with them, helping them.

When Jesus came to fulfill God's plan, it was not easy for Him. But Jesus was determined to pay the price for our sins just like He promised. Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for our sins. Through Jesus, God offers you a new life with Him. You can receive that new life when you ADMIT that you are a sinner and ASK Jesus to forgive your sin. BELIEVE that Jesus' died on the cross to pay for your sin and that He rose from the dead, defeating sin forever. CONFESS your faith in Jesus and CHOOSE TO FOLLOW God's way rather than your own way, making Him your Forever Friend. What will you determine to do?

Pray that students will be determined to not be afraid and be faithful to God.

Invite students wanting to know more about praying to ask Jesus to be their Forever Friend to move to the designated counseling area to meet with a leader one on one. Be sure to have all the decision supplies available.

Gospel Tip

When talking to a young person about salvation, ask open-ended questions. Avoid yes or no questions. Students can often tell by the inflection of your voice if you are hoping for a "yes" or "no" answer. Open-ended questions will allow you to get a glimpse of their heart. Rephrase the question if they have difficulty answering it.

SURF TEAM TIME

Connecting with students in small groups;
applying today's Bible Connection and Character Word



Memory Link cards, Hang 10 pages, Index cards, pens, highlighters

Today's Bible Lesson

- Before you begin, ask if there are any students who would like to talk with the Bible Connection Leader about praying to ask Jesus to become their Forever Friend. If so, let them go to the designated area.
- *What questions do you have about today's story?*
- *How did Nehemiah show determination in today's Bible story?*
- *How did God help Nehemiah stay determined?*
- *Describe what Jesus' determination has done for us.*

Use the Bible

Give each student a Memory Link card. Review today's Memory Link and Character Word. Guide them to use cards to mark today's story in their KBC Study Bibles and highlight today's Memory Link if they have not already done so.

Hang 10 Pages

Give each student a Hang 10 Page. Challenge them to hang out with God 10 minutes each day by praying and reading the Bible, using the Hang 10 page as a guide. Encourage them to bring back their Hang 10 pages next week.

Please pick up your Hang 10. Nehemiah was determined in his heart that with God's help the wall could be rebuilt. What is something that you need God to help you with? Ask Him and trust Him.

Pray

Give students an opportunity to write prayer requests on index cards. Take the cards home and pray for their needs this week.

Dear Heavenly Father, You are great and awesome! Thank You for helping us when we face difficult times. In Jesus' name, amen.

Teaching Tip

Be a team player. Before club each week take time to review the entire lesson, not just your part. Read the story and Memory Link ahead of time and mark them in your Bible. Be available to help as needed before, during and after club time. Pray not only for the students in your surf team, but also for everyone in your club.

MAKE IT STICK - REVIEW GAME

Playing a game to review today's Bible Connection and Character Word



LESSON 13 "DETERMINATION" *(page 6)*

Option 1 - BUILD THE WALL RELAY

Cups, painter's tape

Prepare: Use the painter's tape to mark a starting point and finish line. Stack 10 cups at the finish line for each surf team.

Instruct all surf teams to line up behind the starting point. On a signal, ask the first person in each surf team to run to the finish line. At the finish line they must build a wall using 10 cups. Then they must replace all 10 cups together (reset) and run back to the starting point. The first person to reach the starting point gets a chance to answer a question. Play until everyone has had a chance to build the wall or until time runs out.

Option 2 - DETERMINATION CARRY

Beach balls

Remind students of the game they played during Get Connected. Call for teams to line up. Ask each one to connect with a partner standing next to them on their team. On a signal, the first pair in each team must carry the ball to a marked spot then carry it back. Explain that the ball must be carried between them touching only the body part you call. The first pair to return to their team gets a chance to answer a question. Call these body parts: head, elbow, arm, hip, back, shoulder. Continue play as time allows.

Teaching Tip
If you are having difficulty with student participation, survey your approach to the game. If you approach games with enthusiasm and are interactive and playful with the students, they will often respond in kind. Also, be prepared and ready to go when it's time to start the review game. They can sense when you are not prepared and you may lose their attention which will delay the start.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. *What is today's character word? (determination)*
2. *Is today's Memory Link in the Old or New Testament? (Old)*
3. *According to our memory link what should we remember? (The Lord is great and awesome!)*
4. *What job did Nehemiah do for the king? (tasted what the king ate and drank to protect him)*
5. *Besides feeling sad what did Nehemiah do when he heard the news about Jerusalem? (he cried, fasted, prayed)*
6. *Where did Nehemiah want to go? (Jerusalem, his hometown)*
7. *What did Nehemiah set out to rebuild? (the wall)*
8. *What problems did Nehemiah face while rebuilding the wall? (it was a big project, bullies)*
9. *Nehemiah's plan called for half the people to do what? (half to work while half guarded them)*
10. *How many days did it take to rebuild the wall? (52)*



***“Do not be
afraid of them.
Remember the
Lord, great and
awesome.”***

Nehemiah 4:14b

KBC Study Bible, page 498