Journal

Spend some time thinking about the question below and journal your thoughts or share them with a parent.



September
2021

Week Two Preteen



Day 1

Go to bit.ly/SundaysAtHomePreteen and watch this week's episode of The So & So Show.

Even if you already saw it at church, feel free to check it out again!

After watching, write one thing that:

1. You liked:

2. You learned:

3. You'd like to know:

Day 2

Read Nehemiah 5:1-12

As you read Nehemiah 5:1-12, circle the laments and cries of the people who are being wronged. Then underline the sentences where Nehemiah calls out the nobles and officials for the terrible things they were doing.

Lastly, highlight the things that Nehemiah does—and calls on others to do—to make things right.

Nehemiah shows us an important truth: it's not enough just to listen. See injustice and listen to the cries of those who are being treated unfairly; we need to **look for ways to make things right.**



Day 3

God cares about how we treat each other.

The prophet Amos wrote these words, which you can read in Amos 5:24: I want you to treat others fairly. So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let right living flow along like a stream that never runs dry! (NIrV)

If you have a device nearby, play this clip of river sounds while you read this prayer out loud to God, asking Him to help you **look for ways to make things right.** https://bit.ly/3yhu04I

Dear God, thank You for the example You show us in Nehemiah's life, and the words from Amos and so many others in Your Word that remind us that you care how we treat each other. You call us to treat others fairly—and to call injustice out when we see it. Please help me to be brave and bold and wise as I look for ways to make things right in the lives of people around me. As Amos wrote, 'So let fair treatment roll on just as a river does! Always do what is right. Let right living flow along like a stream that never runs dry!' In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

Day 4

When we see others being treated unfairly, it's sometimes easy to look the other way—especially if we're being treated fairly at the same time.

After all, we wouldn't want to rock the boat. What if speaking up means we get treated unfairly too?

But when everyone is being treated fairly, that's when "right living can flow along like a stream." When we stand up for others and treat each other fairly, it's contagious . . . justice flows like a river!

There are a lot of ways to talk about justice—to get the ball rolling so that others are treated fairly. Choose one of the ways below that you can stand up for others to make things right.

- Talk to someone who you think is experiencing unfair treatment. Ask them about their experience, and what would make things better.
- Talk to others about a situation you've observed in your life/ community. Together, look for ways to make things right.
- 3. Do you see someone in your family, neighborhood, school, or community being treated unfairly? Speak up to the people in charge—tell them what you see, and what you think should be done to make things right.
- 4. Don't know of any examples of others being treated unfairly? Talk to an adult or trusted older friend about experiences they've observed.

Day 5

Who do you see being treated unfairly?

Talking about justice and fairness is one thing, acting on it is another. But when we look at Nehemiah, we see how initiative means putting action to our convictions. Nehemiah demanded that the religious leaders give back what they had taken—including the interest they had charged the people for borrowing things when they couldn't afford them.

What did you uncover in your conversation yesterday? Maybe you learned about a situation you didn't even know existed. If so, your next step might be learning more, asking questions, and figuring out what a solution might look like.

Or maybe you listened to the perspective of others who are being treated unfairly, and now you know what would help—your next step could be taking that action (or speaking up to others who can take the action) to make things right.

Maybe you've seen enough now to know that this is a bigger problem that needs a bigger solution. Your next step could be talking to a trusted adult about what you could do to be a part of making things right.

Write down your ideas, and then commit to putting at least one of the ideas into action today!

Some ways to make things right: