



All Age Service
Bible Sunday

Part 2 – Sketch

Then he said to them, 'Go your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.' **Nehemiah 8.10 (ESV)**

Option 5 – Story of Nehemiah part 2 (Nehemiah 8.9–12 (ESV))

MORE! I want MORE!

This sketch can be performed by teenagers or two adults, if two adults perhaps make the adult acting as the child look childlike, with shorts, teddy bear etc. A mother and son is preferable. Child is anything between 5-years and 8-years. This could also be done with puppets if any are available.

The child takes a pile of 4 Bibles and passes them to parent eagerly.

Child: PLEASE will you read them again?

Parent: But I have already read them, all, for 4 days straight!

Child: AGAIN! AGAIN! AGAIN!

Parent: These are 4 large books, how about we read just one tonight

Child: But I want to hear them all

Parent: Look, it's a school night, it took us until 2 am in the morning to get through them all yesterday

Child: I listened the whole time though didn't I? I didn't fiddle or play or start playing imaginary aeroplanes half way through?

Parent: (reluctantly concedes) No, you are right, you did listen brilliantly!

Child: (as if won) You see! You always tell me that I need to sit still, and listen to stories before bed and for nearly a whole week I actually have! So PLEASE read them again

Parent: But every time I read them you end up crying!

Child: It's the rules, the rules make me cry

Parent: (incredulous) Rules? You never listen to my rules? You hate rules!

Child: But these rules (start to whimper) they are...INCREDIBLE

Parent: (pause trying to process and understand) Is everything alright at school darling?

Child: Yes. Why?

Parent: Well why do you find 5 books of rules (under breath) that you usually ignore (back to child) incredible?

Child: These rules make me want to be a good person, they make me want to make God my chief commander (look to the heavens, salute and say 'yes sir')

Parent: Well that's not something to cry about you should be singing and dancing if these rules make you want to be a better person – (thinks) you know that I have been asking you to sort out your toy box for the last few weeks – it would be really 'good' to get on with that?

Child: Oh Mother!

Mother: (shrugs shoulders) Well it was worth a try!

Child: So, you really think I shouldn't cry when I hear these rules I should be happy?

Mother: Yes! Anything that makes us be better people and more like God should make us happy

Child: Even though I am rubbish at keeping the rules? For instance (opens a page in one of the books) 'do not wear clothes made from two types of material' (Leviticus 19.19), well my school jumper is polyester AND cotton, I checked!

Mother: (affectionate laugh) We don't need to worry about rules like that now, Jesus sorted that.

Child: So, I should be happy?

Mother: Anything that wants to make you more like God...

Child: And make him my chief commander (salute) Yes Sir!

Mother: Yes, and making God your chief commander is worth being happy about. Think about it, God is the strongest, most powerful, loving chief commander, if he is in charge of your life, you are strong. You can do anything!

Child: So, following God's rules makes me happy and strong (starts flexing muscles)

Mother: Yes, I guess so!

Child: Woo Hoo! (starts jumping around) KEEP READING! KEEP READING!

Mother: (deep sigh) Fine, just two more pages (reads from Exodus 3.1) 'Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law...'

Child: (settles to listen and under voice repeats) Happy and Strong! Happy & Strong! Don't be sad! The joy of the Lord is my strength (final muscle flex and falls asleep)

Apply

All the people heard the Book of the Law and wanted to be like God and keep his rules, they started to cry because they realised they weren't doing a good job. But Nehemiah told them, listening to the Bible is helping you want to be more like God – that's a GOOD thing, it brings joy, and that brings strength!

Reflection

Pause for Thought

- Ask the church to focus on a mirror at the front of the hall, a full length one ideally
- Read James 1.23–24 (ESV) as a meditation
- For the sake of children in the church - explain that what they are about to hear is a clue – a clue to help us understand why when they heard the Bible the people cried...
- 'For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away at once and forgets what he was like.'
- In March 2017 the Black Yi tribe in Yunnan Province, China received the Bible in their language for the first time ever. They cried with joy at being given such a treasure by Bible Society.