

Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls 1 year olds - 4 year olds

Leader Notes

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 1-7

Christ Connection: Nehemiah helped God's people fix the walls around their city. The walls protected the people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies.

Bottom Line: I can always return to and follow God.

Leader Context: <https://parkwaychurch.tv/blog/2023/05/15/ask-leaders-may-21>

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus, and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

Discussion Questions

- **Why did Nehemiah respond with sadness when He heard about the walls being down and the gates burned?** The walls were a symbol, safety and broken relationships with God.
- **What did Nehemiah do when He realized how bad things were in Jerusalem?** He confessed his sin and repented and began rebuilding.
- **What did Nehemiah tell his people when they were being attacked and threatened?** He told them to trust God.
- **How long did it take to repair the wall?** 52 days
- **How does God protect us today?** in tangible and not so tangible ways, give examples from your life.

Social

Fishing Game or I Spy

What You Need: Instruction Page, Game Sets

What You Do:

- Using the supplies and game instruction page, choose one game to play with the kids today.
- As you are playing, use this as a time to call each kid by name and learn their names well.

Say: That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let's pray and listen to our story today."

Small Group Prayer: "Dear God, help us feel sorry for the ways we disobey You. Help us repent of our sin. Thank You for providing salvation through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.."



Bible Story Video



Story Basket

"A man named Nehemiah (NEE huh MIGH uh) lived in Persia. Let's see what our story basket teaches us about him.

Nehemiah was one of God's people. (*Show a toy boy figure*) This is Nehemiah. He had an important job in Persia serving the king. (*walk Nehemiah to the king- another toy figure*) One day, some men came from Judah. Nehemiah asked them, "How are God's people doing?" "The people are in trouble," they said. "The walls around the city are broken down, and the gates have been burned down." (*Show the "Oh no!" speech bubble*) Nehemiah cried and prayed to God when he heard this bad news. The king saw that Nehemiah was sad. Can everyone make a sad face?. Those are very sad faces. "What's wrong, Nehemiah?" the king asked.

Nehemiah said, "The city where my family is from is in trouble." So the king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem to help the people. (*Walk Nehemiah to the city- lego wall*)

Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem's wall and fix the gates in the wall. Before long, the wall was halfway rebuilt! Some men who lived nearby did not like God's people, and made a plan to attack them. (*Show the "Oh no" speech bubble*)

Nehemiah did not want the people to be afraid. "God is great and powerful!" Nehemiah said. "If our enemies attack us, God will fight for us." So God's people kept working. Some of the men watched for the enemies, and others worked on the wall.

Nehemiah was a good leader for God's people. He helped them when they had problems, and he told them to trust God. Before long, the wall was finished! (*Show the party blower and celebrate by blowing it*) The gates and the walls were fixed, and God's people were safe. The people's enemies were afraid because they knew that God was with His people.

This story helps us remember, Nehemiah helped God's people fix the walls around their city. The walls protected the people from their enemies. (*Show the Jesus poster*) God protects us from our enemies."

Application Activity

Glue Paper Bricks

What You Need: Nehemiah's Wall printable (1 per kid), 1 inch x 2 inch rectangles of construction paper, gluesticks

What You Do:

- Place rectangles, gluesticks, and printable on a table.
- Demonstrate how to glue paper bricks in rows to resemble a wall.
- Encourage each child to use paper bricks to build a wall on his paper.

Say: "You worked hard on the wall you built on your paper. Building a wall is hard work. Walls are used for our protection. Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem's wall and fix the gates in the wall. The walls protected the people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies."



Transition

Look for Colors

Transition Activities are provided so that you can separate the group and have small groups doing each activity at the same time. Allow your helper to lead one activity while you do the other activity.

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite children to play a color game.
- Place your hand over your eyes, as if you are looking far away for something, or use your hands to pretend to use binoculars as you look throughout the classroom.
- Say, "I see something that is the color red."
- Encourage kids to shade their eyes or look in their binoculars and guess what you see.
- Give additional hints if needed.
- Repeat the game, naming different colors.
- Suggest children take turns being the leader.

Say: "You did a good job looking for things of different colors. You are good at watching and looking for things. Some of God's people were given the job of watching for enemies. When Nehemiah and God's people were rebuilding the wall, some men made a plan to attack them. Nehemiah did not want the people to be afraid. He told the people that if the enemies attacked them, God would fight for them. God's people kept working. Some of the men worked on the wall, while others watched for enemies."

Going Home

Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- Pass out coloring pages for kids to take home.
- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.