

### Nehemiah Rebuilt the Walls Kindergarten - 5th grade

#### 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.

#### Pick a Stick and Would You Rather

**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.."

#### Social



### Bible Story Video



“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.”



### Sorry for Sin

**What You Need:** Scripture Cards, index cards, pencils

#### What You Do:

- Give kids an index cards and instruct them to draw a "X" on one side and check mark on one side and a check mark on the other.
- Explain that you will read some Bible verses about sin and repentance.
- Instruct kids to hold up either the check mark if the Bible verse describes being sorry for sin or the X if it does not.
- Read the following Bible verses one at a time.

**Say:** “How should we feel when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him. God is faithful to forgive us and show us mercy when we sin. By believing in Jesus we can find forgiveness and have new hearts that God more than our sin.

- *God's Word is a great way to remember repentance. What are other ways that you remember what God has commanded us about repentance?*
- *How can you live that shows you have a new heart following after God?*



## Transition

### **Build the Wall**

*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:** spaghetti noodles, mini marshmallows/clay

**What You Do:**

- Provide kids with spaghetti noodles and mini marshmallows or clay.
- Instruct kids to use the noodles and marshmallows/clay to build a wall.
- Use a timer to give the kids five minutes to build the most sturdy wall possible.
- When the time is up, choose the wall that is the most sturdy as the winner.

**Say:** "Building walls isn't easy. Nehemiah had a tough job: to help the people rebuild the wall all the way around the city of Jerusalem. And it didn't just have to stand up, it had to protect the people from outside enemies."

- *What is something that makes you feel safe and secure, like the walls did for Nehemiah's people?*
- *What can you do when you are scared that could make you feel more secure/safe?*

## Going Home

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

- 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.