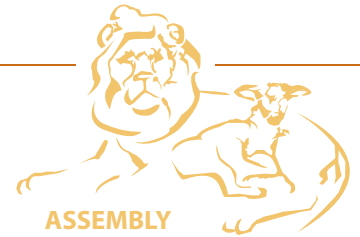


NEHEMIAH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NEHEMIAH 1-4



The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

REBUILDING THE WALL

Supplies:

- building blocks

Have the children act out the two main groups in the story, the Israelites building the wall and their enemies. Have three of the children laugh at their work and then turn to threaten those building the wall. Have a teacher play the role of Nehemiah and help the workers remember that God was protecting them and helping them in their task.

Afterwards ask the builders if they found the words of Nehemiah encouraging. Read the following verses:

Then I said to them, 'You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.' I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said to me.
(Nehemiah 2:17-18)

I answered them by saying, 'The god of heaven will give us success. We his servants will start rebuilding, but as for you, you have no share in Jerusalem or any claim or historic right to it.
(Nehemiah 2:20)

So we continued the work with half the men holding spears, from the first light of dawn till the stars came out. At that time I also said to the people, 'Have every man and his helper stay inside Jerusalem at night, so they can serve us as guards by night and workmen by day.' Neither I nor my brothers nor my men nor the guards with me took off our clothes; each had his weapon, even when he went for water.
(Nehemiah 4:21-23)

Explain to the children how encouraging it was for the Israelites to remember that God was their provider and protector.

NEHEMIAH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NEHEMIAH 1-4

WHY REBUILD THE WALL?

Ask the children if they can guess why God wanted the wall rebuilt. List their answers.

See if anyone mentions that Jesus would be dedicated in the temple that was rebuilt. If they do not guess that one reason God wanted the wall rebuilt was to prepare a way for Jesus, read Luke 2:21-40. Then ask the children again, "Why rebuild the wall?"

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

One day Jesus would minister in the restored city of Jerusalem. Although the people of Israel rebelled against God, God had a plan to redeem His people through Christ.

Part of that plan was to restore the walls of the city of Jerusalem. Jesus was crucified just outside those city walls. Jesus would have walked through the Judgment Gate in the wall that led to Golgotha, also called the Place of the Skull, where He gave His life for the atonement of our sins.

