

NEHEMIAH

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: NEHEMIAH 1-4



The STORY

Read "The King's Wine Steward" and "Rebuilding the Walls" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 252-253).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in this story? (Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem was in ruins. He decided to pray and then asked the king if he could go back to help. The king allowed him to go and gave Nehemiah the help he needed to rebuild Jerusalem.)
- What did the enemies of Israel think of their work to rebuild the city? (They laughed at first but then planned an attack as the walls were rebuilt higher.)
- What did Nehemiah tell the people who were afraid? (Nehemiah told the people that God would fight on their behalf.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: men rebuilding the wall while holding weapons. Engage the children by asking:

- Read Nehemiah 4:7-23. Why did the Israelites start carrying their weapons while they were rebuilding the wall? (Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the men of Ashdod planned to attack them.)
- What did Nehemiah tell the people to encourage them? (He told them, "Our God will fight for us.")
- Can you think of another story where God helped his people win in battle? (David and Goliath, Israel fleeing from Egypt, the walls of Jericho, etc.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

While the children are eating the snack engage the children by asking:

- Why do you think Israel's enemies laughed at their attempts to rebuild the wall? (The wall was very large before it was broken down and rebuilding it was a difficult job. The people rebuilding the wall were not expert builders but average people like you and me.)
- Why do you think the king allowed Nehemiah to leave and rebuild the walls? (Nehemiah 2:8 says, "Because the gracious hand of my God was upon me, the king granted my requests." Proverbs 21:1 tells us, "The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases." God directed the heart of Artaxerxes.)
- Did you ever pray for God's help in performing a difficult task? (The Bible records Nehemiah prayed before his conversation with the king and again in the moments before answering the king's question. See Nehemiah 2:4-5.)

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.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

