

Unit 18 • Session 2

The Walls Rebuilt

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 1–6

Story Point: Nehemiah led God’s people to rebuild the walls.

Key Passage: 1 Peter 5:10

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.

The BIBLE Story

Long ago, a man named Nehemiah (NEE huh MIGH uh) lived in Persia. Persia was the place where many of God’s people stayed after they were freed from Babylon. Some of God’s people went home to their country called Judah. Nehemiah was one of God’s people. He had an important job in Persia serving the king.

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.”

Nehemiah cried and prayed to God when he heard this bad news. The king saw that Nehemiah was sad. “What’s wrong, Nehemiah?” the king asked.

Nehemiah said, “The city where my family is from is in trouble. The walls around the city are broken, and the gates have been burned down.” So the king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem to rebuild the city.

In Jerusalem, Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem’s wall and fix the gates in the wall. Everyone in the city worked together on the walls. Before long, the wall was halfway rebuilt!

Some men who lived nearby did not like God’s people, and they did not want them to have new walls to keep them safe. The men made fun of God’s people and made a plan to attack them.

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 stood guard with weapons, and others worked on the wall. The people were always ready to fight, just in case.

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! 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.

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. When we know and love Jesus, He keeps us safe from sin and we will live with Him forever.

Learn the big picture question

Say • Our big picture question asks, “**Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.**” The people were afraid of their enemies who did not want them rebuilding their walls, but Nehemiah reminded the people God was in control and would be with them. They kept working, and God kept them safe.

Practice the key passage

Place a bookmark at Jeremiah 29:11. Invite your child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. **God...** (*Point to the sky*) **after you have suffered a little while,** (*pretend to cry by making sad face and using fingers to trace tears falling from eyes*) **will himself restore you.** (*make a happy face by drawing fingers in an outward arch from the two corners of mouth.*) **1 Peter 5:10** (*Open hands like a book*). Work together to say the verse. One of you say the first part of the key passage and the other says the second part. Say the reference together. Repeat the parts in order several times.

Say • You worked together to say the key passage like God’s people worked together to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls. God brought His people home after being prisoners for a long time. He helped them rebuild the temple, and then He helped them rebuild their walls.

Coloring page

What you need: coloring sheet, 1 per child, markers or crayons

Give your child the coloring/activity page. Invite your child to color the one side. On the other side, encourage him to name the tools on the left side of the page and then draw a line to match the tool to the person who needs it to do the job.

Say • In today’s Bible story, God’s people got to work rebuilding the walls around their city. Some of their enemies did not want God’s people rebuilding the walls, so the workers not only carried tools, but weapons! Remember the Bible story? Did the people have to use their weapons?

Explore with blocks

What you need: several kinds of blocks (interlocking logs or bricks, 1-inch cubes, wooden blocks, cardboard blocks, and so forth), smartphone or tablet (optional)

Provide several kinds of blocks, such as interlocking logs or bricks, 1-inch cubes, wooden blocks, cardboard blocks, and so forth. Guide your child to build a section of wall with each kind of block. Push the walls and compare which ones are the strongest and which ones fall the easiest. Ask which walls were easiest to build and which ones were hardest. Consider searching “walls of old Jerusalem” on a smartphone or tablet. Show the images. Ask her what material it looks like the walls are made of. Talk about how strong the walls would be.

Say • Jerusalem had a wall around it for protection. Nehemiah was upset when he heard that the walls around the city had been broken down and the gates had been burned. **Nehemiah led God’s people to rebuild the walls.** They worked very hard and God helped them. The walls protected the people from their enemies.

Jesus protects us from our enemies. When we know and love Jesus, He keeps us safe from sin and we will live with Him forever.

Create wall art

What you need: white construction paper, marker, red or brown rectangular paper squares, glue sticks (if you do not have red or brown paper, your child can color pieces first.)

Write the story point at the top of a sheet of construction paper for each child. Guide preschoolers to glue a rectangular piece of paper onto their paper. Encourage them to repeat the process to create a brick wall.

Say • You made a fantastic wall! **Nehemiah led God's people to rebuild the walls** around their city. The walls protected the people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies. When we know and love Jesus, He keeps us safe from sin and we will live with Him forever.

Story review

Nehemiah led God's people to rebuild the walls around their city, Jerusalem. He knew the people needed the walls for protection.

Ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

- Why was Nehemiah sad? (*God's people were in trouble. Their city wall and gates were broken.*)
- Who led the people to rebuild the walls and fix the gates? (*Nehemiah*)
- Who did Nehemiah say would fight for the people? (*God because He is great and powerful*)
- Why were their enemies afraid when the wall was finished? (*They knew that God was with His people.*)
- **Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.**