

April 18th, 2021
Sunday Service (9:00am & 11:00am)

Bible Story: Rebuilding the Wall

God's people had lived in Babylon for 70 years. Then King Cyrus, the king of Persia, took over Babylon and let them go home. Some of God's people went home to Judah, but some of them stayed. Nehemiah (nee huh MIGH uh) stayed and worked for the king of Persia. One day, some men came from Judah. Nehemiah asked, "How are God's people doing in Jerusalem?" The men had bad news: "The people are in trouble. The walls around Jerusalem are broken down, and the gates have been burned down." Nehemiah cried. Then he prayed and fasted. The king noticed Nehemiah and asked, "What's wrong? Why are you sad?" Nehemiah was afraid; no one was supposed to be sad around the king. Nehemiah said, "The city where my ancestors are from is in ruins, and the gates of the city have been burned down." The king sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem. Nehemiah inspected the walls and led the people to start rebuilding the walls and gates. The workers put in doors, bolts, and bars. They cut stones and lifted them into place on the wall, and they filled in gaps and holes. All around the city, people worked side by side. Soon the wall was half as tall as it had once been!

Not everyone was happy that Jerusalem's walls were being rebuilt. Some men who lived nearby were angry. God's people kept working on the walls, but their enemies made a plan to attack them and stop their work. God's people prayed and chose men to guard the walls all day and all night, but the people were discouraged. "Our enemies are everywhere," they said. Nehemiah reminded the people that God was with them. "Don't be afraid. God is great and powerful!" Nehemiah said. "Be ready. If our enemies attack us, God will fight for us!" Enemies could threaten God's people, but they could not make God's people stop building. Their enemies were not in charge of rebuilding the wall; God was! So God's people went back to work. Some stood guard with weapons, and others worked on the wall. Some men worked with one hand and held a weapon in the other. They were always ready to fight, just in case. Nehemiah was a wise and good leader for God's people while they worked. In just 52 days, the wall was complete! The gates were repaired, and the wall was

restored. When all of Jerusalem's enemies heard that the wall had been rebuilt, they were afraid because they knew God was with His people. Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls around Jerusalem to protect them from their enemies. Jesus came to protect us from our greatest enemy, sin and death. He died on the cross and rose from the dead to rescue everyone who trusts in Him.

Bible Story Review: Rebuilding the Wall

Supplies: none

Directions: Discuss and ask your kids the questions below.

1. What was Nehemiah's job before coming back to Jerusalem? (He was the king's cupbearer, Neh. 1:11)
2. What was the biggest challenge the Jews faced in rebuilding the walls? (Their enemies tried to intimidate them to make them stop, Neh. 4:1-4)
3. How many days did it take to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem? (52, Neh. 6:15)
4. Why do you think it was important to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem? Help the kids understand that a city's walls and gates were important for the security of the people. Without walls they would be vulnerable to attack.
5. Why do you think it is significant that the Jews were all working together? Explain that the people needed each other. They worked together and mutually encouraged one another along the way. As believers, God calls us to be united and work together for His kingdom. We need each other!
6. How can you be an encouragement to someone this week? Guide kids to think practically. Discuss ways they can cheer for their friends at sporting events, show kindness to their siblings, or help their parents by doing chores and obeying joyfully. Discuss why encouraging others is important and how it can demonstrate God's love for people.

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:10

Directions: Silly voices time! Have the volunteers & kids read the verse all together in the silly voices presented: Superhero voice; Cat voice; Scary voice; Mickey Mouse voice.

Prayer & Craft: Build the Tallest Tower!

Supplies: tape, 2 sheets of paper each kid

Directions: Give each one of your kids 2 pieces of paper. Challenge them to build either the biggest wall or the tallest tower! Invite them to use their creativity! They may use tape

Bible Story Game: Remnant

Supplies: none

Directions: Instruct everyone to stand. Read the list of criteria below, one statement at a time. People who meet the criteria must keep standing, and those who don't will sit down. Continue reading the statements until only one person remains standing. You can play more than once.

Criteria:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| went to preschool at RHCC | has had the hiccups |
| owns a pet | has been to Disneyland |
| has a brother | likes broccoli |
| can play a musical instrument | can sound like a firetruck |
| is on a sports team | has been to a different state or country |
| was born in California | can pat their head and rub their tummy at the same time |

SAY: Two to three million Jews were taken into exile in Babylon. But only about 50,000 people returned to Jerusalem. That's not very many! A remnant is a small remaining number of people. Do you think it surprised God that only 50,000 people were left of the nation of Israel? Of course not. Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. God was even in control over the number of Jews who returned to Jerusalem out of exile. He would work through those people to fulfill the promised blessing He had made to Abraham so many years earlier—sending the Messiah, Jesus.