

Rebuilding the Walls



Key Passages

- Nehemiah 1:3–4, 2:4–5, 2:17–18

Lesson Focus

- God used Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Ezra Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear that God led Nehemiah back to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Building the Wall

You will lead your class around the room to collect the Temple Poster Building Blocks. Students will hang them on the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster you used in Lessons 5 and 8.



Activity 2: Matching Blocks

Students will match building blocks with pictures showing ways we can honor God through obedience.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Ezra Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- ☐ Provide play dough if appropriate.

- ☐ Ezra Coloring Sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- ☐ Print one each of the six Lesson Illustrations from the Resource DVD-ROM to show during class.
- ☐ Optional: Use large building blocks or boxes. Attach each Lesson Illustration to a block and bring out during the lesson.
- ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Quarters 3 and 4 Lesson Flip Charts
- ☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time
- ☐ Six Lesson Illustrations
- ☐ Optional: Building blocks with Lesson Illustrations attached



BUILDING THE WALL

- ☐ Print the Temple Poster Components from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- ☐ Print enough Building Blocks so each student has one.
- ☐ Hide/place the building blocks around the room for the students to find.
- ☐ Print, color, and cut out the Nehemiah figure.
- ☐ Attach the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lessons 5 and 8 to the wall. (Make sure the previous illustrations from Lessons 5 and 8 are permanently attached to the poster.)

- ☐ Temple Poster Building Blocks scattered around the room
- ☐ Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lessons 5 and 8 attached to the wall with illustrations from previous lessons in place
- ☐ Nehemiah figure
- ☐ Teacher Classroom Poster Guide
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



MATCHING BLOCKS WORKSHEET

- ☐ Print one Matching Blocks Worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Matching Blocks Worksheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- ☐ No extra preparation necessary.

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- ☐ Prepare and bring snacks.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- ☐ Snacks
- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Nehemiah was another of the descendants of the Jewish exiles who found himself in the service of a Persian king. Just as the captivity of Judah came in three stages, the return to and restoration of Jerusalem was also in three phases. We have already learned about the first return in 538 BC as King Cyrus sent a group of Jews back to Jerusalem and the Temple was rebuilt. Then we learned about the second return of Ezra in 467 at the direction of King Artaxerxes. In this lesson, we will see how Artaxerxes sent Nehemiah to Jerusalem in 454 to finalize the restoration of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah's brother, who had likely gone with Ezra to Jerusalem about 13 years earlier, had returned from and given a report on the state of affairs there. Things were bleak. The people were in distress, they were being oppressed, and the walls around the city were in ruins (Nehemiah 1:1–3). At this news, Nehemiah was grieved. He fasted and prayed, asking God to forgive the sins of Israel. He recognized that God had redeemed Israel by His power and that it was only by God's hand that they could be restored (1:10). Nehemiah also knew that his prayers were to the God who held the heart of the king in His hand, and he cried out for favor in the eyes of the king.

After hearing the news of Jerusalem's sad state, Nehemiah appeared before the king. As the king's cupbearer, His job was to sample the wine and other beverages to ensure that they were not poisoned. So the life of the king was ensured by putting Nehemiah in harm's way. As Nehemiah served the king, his sadness was apparent and the king asked him for the reason (Nehemiah 2:1–2). Nehemiah shared his concern for Jerusalem, and when the king asked him for his request, Nehemiah prayed to God and then asked the king's permission to rebuild Jerusalem. The king said yes! Then Nehemiah asked for supplies to rebuild the walls and gates and for letters to the local governors to support the project. And the king said yes! Nehemiah knew that it was God's hand in the matter that these requests were granted. Nehemiah prayed and then acted, trusting God in both.

As Nehemiah set out for Jerusalem, he was accompanied by captains of the king's army and letters to the governors of the region. Sanballat and Tobiah were two of these leaders who did not want to see Jerusalem rebuilt (2:9–10). Nehemiah surveyed the task for sev-

eral days and then called the people to rebuild, even in the face of the mocking of the governors of the region. Nehemiah knew what God had called him to do, and he knew God would prosper the work.

Nehemiah 3 describes the work of rebuilding the walls and gates of Jerusalem and lists all of the people involved in the work. The work began in early July (Ab) and was finished in September (Elul)—only 52 days after they had begun (Nehemiah 6:15). During this period of building, the Jews were harassed by Sanballat and the others who did not want to see Jerusalem rebuilt. They mocked and threatened the Jews, but Nehemiah cried out to God for protection and encouraged the people to persevere as they trusted God (Nehemiah 4:4, 4:9).

But Nehemiah did more than pray—he acted! He trusted that God would protect the Jews while they worked, but he also understood the people's responsibility to defend themselves. God uses people to accomplish His plans. Nehemiah knew this truth and knew that the threat of attack from Sanballat and the others was real and required a response (4:7–13).

Now, it is true that God acts in miraculous ways and that He could have killed the attacking armies just as He did the Assyrian army that encircled Jerusalem 250 years earlier (2 Kings 19), but that miraculous activity seems to be the exception rather than the expectation. God sent His people to battle many times, and He miraculously protected them many times. Nehemiah organized the people so that some would work while some would keep guard, and even those who worked had their weapons ready for battle (Nehemiah 4:14–23).

Prayer and action are not contrary to one another, but both are ways to demonstrate faith and trust in God. Even though Nehemiah and the others were prepared for battle, the credit for their safety and their accomplishments was always directed toward God (Nehemiah 4:14–15, 4:20, 6:9, 6:12, 6:16).

As we live as Christians today, God honors our prayers as well as our actions—the two should not be separated. If we are in need of money, to sit and pray for a miracle without being willing to work to meet our needs is not an attitude that honors Christ. However, we cannot fall into the opposite ditch of thinking that God only helps those who help themselves (a saying that many are surprised to learn is not in the Bible). Our responsibility to act and God's providence are both clearly presented in Scripture.

As we pray for the salvation of loved ones, we should also be speaking gospel truths to them and serving them in love. As we pray for the homeless in our

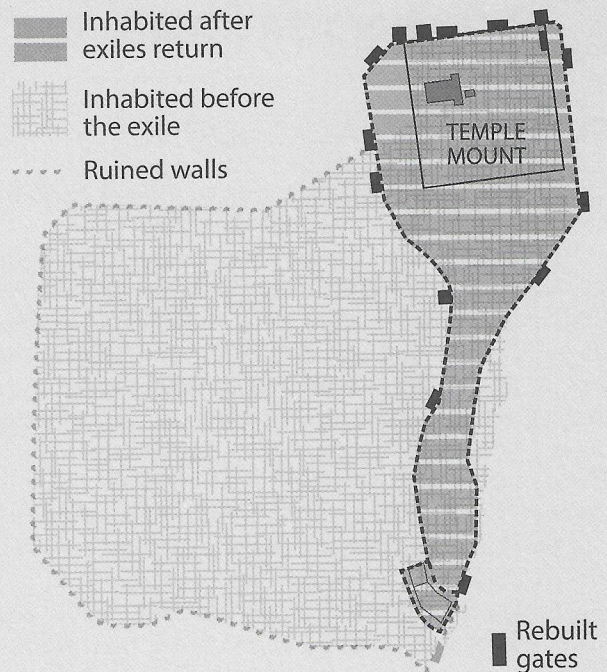
communities, we should also seek to meet their physical needs and offer them true hope in the gospel. As we pray for wisdom from God, we should be diligently seeking truth from His Word and counsel from others. Our prayers should not keep us from acting, nor should our actions keep us from praying. Both are demonstrations of our trust in God. God will accomplish His perfect plans through both.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

As we have mentioned before, much archaeological evidence has been found that lines up with accounts from the Bible. That is exactly what we would expect from the trustworthy source of the Bible. Papyrus scrolls found in southern Egypt contain records from the time of Nehemiah. These Elephantine Papyri were recorded by a Jewish community there and were preserved in the dry climate to be discovered 1,200 years later. Within this collection is a letter to the Samaritan governor Sanballat. This is the same Sanballat who harassed the Jews as they sought to rebuild the walls. Also mentioned in these ancient documents is Jehohanan (Johanan), a leader mentioned in Nehemiah 6:18 and 12:23. These details in a source that is dated to the exact time of Nehemiah's return are a great confirmation of the truth we find in Scripture. God has given us a trustworthy revelation.

Why was Nehemiah so interested in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem? Walls were important for defense of ancient cities. Nehemiah recognized the need for the protection of the city and the Temple and for a place for the Jews to seek refuge under attack. The gates that had been burned and the sections of the walls that had been torn down left the Jews practically defenseless. In 2007, a portion of the wall constructed under Nehemiah's leadership was uncovered. Discoveries like these are consistent with the biblical accounts and give skeptics fewer and fewer reasons to doubt the truthfulness of Scripture. Of course, even without archaeological confirmations, we can trust the Word of the God who cannot lie.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

O great and awesome God. You keep your promises and show mercy to those who love you. My heart is heavy, and I pray earnestly for my students who are surrounded by the sin and evil of this cursed world. How I would love to surround them with a thick wall of protection, like the one that surrounded Jerusalem. Instead I pray for a spiritual protection that comes from the knowledge of your Word and a relationship with you. And I pray that you will bring them to the security and peace that only your truth can bring. Lord have mercy on the next generation. Much of their lives is spent in godless pursuits. But you, Lord, can protect their impressionable minds. Use this lesson to get them excited about living a life dedicated to you. Holy Spirit, move in the lives of my students and in mine. Use us for your glory!

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Ezra Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, six Lesson Illustrations, Quarter 3 Flip Chart, optional building blocks with Lesson Illustrations attached, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson. See the Lesson Preparation chart for details (page 2).

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a "please" prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers, and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord would you please . . .
(insert personal prayer).

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one living and true God.*
- ? Where can we learn about the one true God? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.*
- ? What does the one true God know? *The one true God knows everything!*
- ? Who should we trust and obey? *The one true God!*
- ? Who alone should we worship? *The one true God!*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number.* You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 11 Flip Chart. Remember, we talked about how God's people were taken away to a foreign land. The enemy had come in and took over their land. They were taken far away from home and made to live there.

Refer to Quarter 3, Lesson 12 Flip Chart. God allowed this to happen because the people in Judah were disobeying God! But God sent His prophet Jeremiah. He told the people that God would one day bring them back home.

? Refer to Lesson 5 Flip Chart. God was doing just that! Does anyone remember this man's name? We learned a song about him. *Zerubbabel*.

Show Lesson Illustration 1. You can refer to the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster as well. His name was Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel led some of the people back to Judah. God used Zerubbabel and the people to rebuild the Temple that had been destroyed by the enemy. The enemy had burned the city and destroyed most of the buildings, including the Temple. But God helped them rebuild the Temple again!

Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart and Lesson Illustration 2. Then God sent another man to Jerusalem to teach the people about God's laws.

? Show Lesson Illustration 2. What was his name? *Ezra*. Show the picture around the circle. Lay it down on the floor.

Ezra loved God's Word and wanted to teach the people about God.

? Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart. What was Ezra doing here in this picture? *Praying*.

Yes. Ezra was praying! When Ezra got back to Jerusalem, he learned that the people had turned away from God. They were disobeying God. Ezra was upset and sad that the people were sinning. So he prayed to God.

So, God used Zerubbabel and Ezra to bring the Jews back to Jerusalem.

Today, we're going to learn about a third man named Nehemiah. Show Lesson Illustration 3. God used Nehemiah, too! And he brought even more Jews back to Jerusalem. And we are going to read all about him from the book called Nehemiah in the Bible!

? Can you repeat that name with me? Repeat the name "Nehemiah" together.

Jerusalem was Nehemiah's home, but that's not where he was living! Nehemiah was far away in a country called Persia. He worked for the king of Persia. Show Lesson Illustration 4.

Even though he was far away from home, Nehemiah would hear news about the people who were in Jerusalem. And one day, he heard some terrible news that made him very sad! That's what we are going to read about today! It is in the book of Nehemiah.

Open the Bible to the book of Nehemiah. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Here it is right here. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle. Listen carefully as I read, so you can tell me what the bad news was. Read Nehemiah 1:3b emphasizing "wall broken down" and "gates burned with fire."

? What was the bad news? What had happened to the wall? *It was broken down.*

➤ If you put the Lesson Illustrations on blocks, stack the blocks like a wall as you show each illustration. Otherwise, get up and walk around the circle showing the pictures to your students. Lay them down on the floor in the circle.

➤ Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Nehemiah 1:3b

Nehemiah 1:4

- ? What happened to the gates in the wall? *They were burned with fire.*

Remember, I told you that Nehemiah's home was Jerusalem. Nehemiah heard that the walls around Jerusalem were ruined! They were all broken down. *Show Lesson Illustration 5.* This wasn't good for the city. Nehemiah was upset. But we will see that God had a plan Nehemiah didn't know about yet—a plan to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

Listen carefully and tell me what Nehemiah did after he heard this bad news! *Read Nehemiah 1:4 emphasizing "wept" and "fasting and praying."*

- ? Did you hear it? What did Nehemiah do? *Wept, mourned, and prayed.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page, Illustration 1. Nehemiah knew this was a big problem. The Bible says he wept and mourned. This means he was crying! The Bible says that Nehemiah fasted and prayed. That means he stopped eating and spent time praying. He was sad about what had happened in Jerusalem.

- ? Who was Nehemiah praying to? Listen again as I read this. *Re-read Nehemiah 1:4. The God of Heaven.*

That's right! Nehemiah was praying for God's help. He wanted to go home. He wanted to help the people in Jerusalem. But he was far away and worked for the king of Persia. What Nehemiah didn't know was that God was going to use HIM to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. But first, Nehemiah had to get back to Jerusalem! What did he do? He asked the king of Persia—the one he worked for—if he could go back home.

Nehemiah 2:4

The Bible tells us what happened next. Listen to this. *Read Nehemiah 2:4 emphasizing "what do you request?"*

Nehemiah 2:5

- ? What did the king ask Nehemiah? *What do you request—or want?*

Yes, the king wanted to know what he could do for Nehemiah. So, what did Nehemiah ask for? Well we are going to find out! Listen to Nehemiah 2:5. *Read Nehemiah 2:5 emphasizing "send me to Judah" and "rebuild it."*

- ? Who was Nehemiah talking to? *The king.*

- ? Where did Nehemiah want to go? *Judah.*

- ? What did he want to do there? *Rebuild the city of Jerusalem.*

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page, Illustration 2. Right! Nehemiah asked the king if he could go home to the land of Judah. The king agreed, and Nehemiah was on his way home! God would use Nehemiah to lead more people home to rebuild the walls.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page, Illustration 3. Well, when Nehemiah got to Jerusalem, he looked around the whole city and saw all the ruined walls. He spoke to the people. Listen to what Nehemiah said to all the people when he got back to Jerusalem. Read Nehemiah 2:17b emphasizing, "let us build."

Nehemiah 2:17b

- ? What did Nehemiah want to do with the people? *Build the walls.*

It was very important for cities back then to have walls around them to keep the people safe from enemies. Show Lesson Illustration 6. Here's a picture of a city protected by walls that were not destroyed. See? That would make it very hard for enemies to get in.

- ? What do you think the people said to Nehemiah? Would they help build the walls? *Allow answers.*

Let's find out what they said. I'll read it to you. Read Nehemiah 2:18 enthusiastically, emphasizing "hand of God upon me" and "Let us rise up and build."

Nehemiah 2:18

- ? Who did Nehemiah tell them about? Whose hand was upon him? *God's hand.*

- ? Who had led Nehemiah to come back to Jerusalem? *God.*

Yes. Nehemiah told the people that it was God who led him back. And God would use Nehemiah to lead the people to rebuild the walls.

- ? So what did the people say? *Re-read Nehemiah 2:18. Let us rise up and build!*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page, Illustration 4. The people understood and believed that God had led Nehemiah back so the walls and gates could be rebuilt. The people wanted to help. And so, they got started building! They worked hard and repaired the walls and gates that had been destroyed so many years ago. God used Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem!

SONG

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. I'm going to teach you a new song called, "Build the Wall." Sing each line and have the children repeat. Then sing the whole song together. Repeat while marching in place or using hand motions as if building a wall.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Great singing! Now, let's practice our memory verse. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song with enthusiasm!

➤ Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



Building the Wall

MATERIALS

- ☐ Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lessons 5 and 8 attached to the wall with elements from Lessons 5 and 8 attached
- ☐ Teacher Classroom Poster Guide
- ☐ Temple Poster Building Blocks placed around the room
- ☐ Nehemiah figure
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out at least one building block for each student. Place/hide them around the room for the students to find. Attach the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5 to the wall.

Using the Classroom Temple Puzzle Poster from Lesson 5, review briefly using the script below. After the discussion, you will lead the students in a march around the room until each student has found at least one building block (depending on the size of your class and time).

Students will then take turns putting their blocks on the poster to help "re-build" the wall. If you do not have the poster used in Lesson 5, you may want to review using the Lessons 5 and 8 Flip Chart Pages.

OK. Look up here at our poster.

? *Refer to Zerubbabel on poster. Who remembers who this was? He led the first group of Jews back to Jerusalem. Zerubbabel.*

God used Zerubbabel to help the people to rebuild the Temple.

? *Refer to Ezra on the poster. And who was this? Do you remember? Ezra.*

God used Ezra to lead more people back home to Jerusalem. Ezra was sad when he

came back to Jerusalem. The people were disobeying God. But Ezra prayed and taught God's laws to the people. And the people turned back to God!

? *Using the Classroom Poster Guide for correct placement, place the Nehemiah figure on the poster. Who was the man we talked about today? Nehemiah.*

? **What was the terrible news that Nehemiah heard?** *The walls of the city were destroyed.*

? **Who led Nehemiah to rebuild the walls?** *God.*

? **Did Nehemiah obey God?** *Yes.*

? **What did the people say when Nehemiah asked them to help?** *Yes! Let's build.*

We're going to build a wall on our poster today. Nehemiah led the people home to Jerusalem, and I am going to lead you around the room. As we travel around the room, I want you each to pick up one building block. Show one of the building blocks that you have placed around the room. After that, we'll add them to the poster and build a wall around the city. Ready? Everyone line up. Here we go!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God used Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah to lead the people back to Jerusalem and to rebuild the Temple, teach the people, and rebuild the wall. Each of these men obeyed and honored God. We can honor God, too, by doing what we know He would want us to do.



Matching Blocks Worksheet

MATERIALS

- ☐ Matching Blocks Worksheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one copy of the Matching Blocks Worksheet for each student. Have students draw a line from the blocks in the wall at the bottom of the worksheet to the matching block at the top. Then color the pictures.

Look at the bottom of your worksheet. Do you see the pictures in the blocks? Those are pictures of some things that you and I can do to honor God.

? **What are these people doing?** *Allow answers. Briefly discuss each picture. Reading Bible, praying, sharing with someone.*

Put your crayon on a picture at the bottom. Now look up at the top of your worksheet. Find a block with the same picture and draw a line to it. Do the other pictures the same way. Then you can color the pictures.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah obeyed God. They honored God by doing what God wanted them to do. God wants us to obey Him, too. We should always try to do what we think God would want us to do. We can honor God that way.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone are the Lord; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them . . .

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

We're going to practice our memory verse.

Let's say it first. *Practice the verse together using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle, have each child "pop" up as he/she says the next word. Once everyone is standing up, go around again and have the children sit down when their word is spoken. You may want to walk around and tap them on the head to "pop" up and/or down as they say each word. Repeat as time allows.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When you've finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

We're going to see if we can remember the words to our memory verse. Squat down like this in a circle. *Show them by squatting.* We're going to pretend that we are popcorn about ready to pop! I'll start by saying the first word in our memory verse, and I'll "pop" up. Then the next person will say the next word in the verse, and he will "pop" up. And we'll keep going around until we've said the verse. Since this is a long verse, you might get to say another word when you've already "popped" up. If that happens, you can just jump to "pop" again. After we say the whole verse we'll go around and sit back down when we say each word. Okay, are you ready?

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah all loved God very much. God is very special! Our memory verse tells us what makes God so special. He is the Creator of everything! He made the heavens, the earth, the seas, and all things in them. He is an awesome God. And we should love, honor, and obey Him.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

Nehemiah was living in Persia—a long, long way from his home in Judah. He heard some very bad news about the city of Jerusalem: the walls and gates were destroyed. Nehemiah went to the king of Persia and asked if he could go home to Jerusalem. God moved the king's heart to let Nehemiah go! When Nehemiah saw the destruction in Jerusalem, he was very sad. He asked the people in the city to help him to rebuild the wall. The people wanted to help! Nehemiah loved God and obeyed Him. God used Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Nehemiah loved and obeyed God, and God used him. Well, God can use you, too. He may not use you to build a huge wall like Nehemiah. But if you keep growing and learning about God, if you learn to love Him with all your heart, if you really want to obey Him, then God will be able to use you. Nehemiah didn't know how God was going to use him. And many times we don't know how God will use us! I do believe that if you keep learning about Him and reading the Bible, then one day He will let you know what He wants you to do for Him.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word so we can know Him better.
- Praise God that we can trust Him.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to obey Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

NEHEMIAH 9:6

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Shout, "Nehemiah 9:6!"

You alo-one,
(Are you sleeping?)

Are the Lo-ord;
(Are you sleeping?)

You-have-made heav'n,
(Brother John,)

The heav'n of heavens,
(Brother John.)

With a-all their-eir ho-ost,
(Morning bells are ringing.)

The earth and ev'rything on it,
(Morning bells are ringing.)

The-seas and all—
(Ding, ding, dong,)

That-is in them.
(Ding, ding, dong.)

BUILD THE WALL

(To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

God said, "Build the wall."
(Row, row, row your boat,)

"Hurry, don't delay!"
(Gently down the stream.)

Nehemiah traveled home.
(Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily.)

He wanted to obey.
(Life is but a dream.)

"Build, build, build the wall."

The people heard him say.

Praying, trusting, working, serving—

God must be obeyed.

Think of fun ways to sing. For example, get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.