



UNIT 18 | SESSION 2 | FEBRUARY 8-9, 2020

2s-3s Lesson

The Walls Rebuilt

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 1-6

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

Key Passage: "God ... will himself restore ... you after you have suffered a little while." 1 Peter 5:10

Christ Connection: The walls protected people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Nehemiah was a Jew living in Persia. He served as the king's cupbearer. When the Persian Empire conquered the Babylonians, King Cyrus allowed God's people to return to Judah. Two or three million Jews had originally been deported, but only a remnant—50,000 people—returned. They set up their homes and rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem.

But when God's people faced opposition in rebuilding the rest of Jerusalem, they stopped. Some 70 years passed, and the walls and gates around the city were still ruined.

City walls and gates were very important in Bible times. Thick walls protected a city from its enemies and provided a sense of safety and security. Gates were the center of city life, the meeting place for commercial and social transactions. Without these structures, the surviving remnant of God's people struggled and was vulnerable to attack.

Nehemiah traveled from Persia to Jerusalem to lead the effort in rebuilding Jerusalem's walls. His leadership was effective. Nehemiah 3 describes all the people working together to rebuild the gates and walls. But it wasn't long before Nehemiah met opposition from local governors. God's people armed themselves and kept working. They completed the wall in just 52 days.

Note how their enemies reacted: “All the surrounding nations were intimidated and lost their confidence, for they realized that this task had been accomplished by our God” (Neh. 6:16).

Help preschoolers see that 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.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

DECORATE A HAMMER

(Cardstock Hammer, 1 per child, Crayons)

Give a preschooler a cardstock hammer and crayons. Talk about how hammers are used to help people build things and say the story point as children decorate.

SAY • Nehemiah was sad when he heard that the walls around the city were broken. When the king found out why Nehemiah was sad, he sent Nehemiah to help. Nehemiah led God’s people to rebuild the walls. Let’s see what else happens in our Bible story today.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: WHEN I LOOK UP, VIDEO: GOD WILL!)

Sing “When I Look Up” and “God Will!”

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark, Toy Sword, Cardboard Brick)

Place a bookmark at Nehemiah 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • We know that the Bible tells the true story of God’s people. Our story today is from the Book of Nehemiah. God used Nehemiah to help protect His people.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God saves people through His Son, Jesus.

Hold a toy sword in one hand and a cardboard brick in the other.

SAY • What are these items used for? Can you guess what they have in common? God’s people needed both of these things in today’s Bible story. Let’s listen to find out more.

Show the Bible story video.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: THE WALLS REBUILT, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

SAY • Nehemiah was sad that the walls and gates around Jerusalem were still broken. The king allowed Nehemiah to go home to rebuild the city. Nehemiah led God’s people to rebuild the walls.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

SAY • The walls kept the people safe from their enemies. Jesus keeps us safe from our enemies. When we love Jesus, He keeps us safe from our wrong choices and we will live with Him forever.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Key Passage Marker)

Place the key passage marker at 1 Peter 5:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying.

SAY • “God will (*pump fist upwards*) himself (*point up*) restore you (*display same arm in front*) after you have suffered a little while (*roll fists in front*)” 1 Peter 5:10 (*open hands like a book*). God brought His people home after being away for a long time. He helped them rebuild the temple, and then He helped them rebuild their walls.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Nehemiah 1-6

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

Key Passage: "God ... will himself restore ... you after you have suffered a little while." 1 Peter 5:10

Christ Connection: The walls protected people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from our enemies.

BUILD A WALL TOGETHER

(Basket, 1 per group, Blocks, per group)

Form a line next to a basket of blocks. Invite one child at a time to choose a block and place it to build a wall and walk back to the end of the line. Continue until all the blocks have been placed.

SAY • You worked together to build a wall just like the people in our story today! Even though the people built the wall, God helped them every step of the way. God can help you do big things too! The walls kept the people safe and Jesus keeps us safe.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

("Story Sequence" printable, 1 per group)

Display the Story Sequence pictures for the children. Use the prompts below to help the children order the story from picture 1 to picture 4.

Picture #1 - Can you find Nehemiah serving the King? He had a special job. He was the King's Cupbearer.

Picture #2 - Can you find Nehemiah reading to the people? God sent Nehemiah to tell the people His words and help them obey.

Picture #3 - Can you find a picture of people working together? Nehemiah worked together with the people to rebuild the wall. The wall kept God's people safe.

Picture #4 - Can you find people that look happy? God's people were very happy to have the wall around their city fixed again. They praised God!

SAY • Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the walls. God kept His people safe as they worked. Nothing can stop God's good plan.

KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

Say the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage children for trying. "God

will (*pump fist upwards*) himself (*point up*) restore you (*display same arm in front*) after you have suffered a little while (*roll fists in front*)” 1 Peter 5:10 (*open hands like a book*).

GOSPEL GEMS

(Key Passage Card, 1 per group, Bible Story Picture, 1 per group, small Bibles)

Provide small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God’s words. Read the key passage card and guide preschoolers to say it. Open your Bible to Nehemiah 1. Show the Bible Story Picture as you retell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

- Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem’s walls.
- God kept His people safe as they worked.
- Jesus keeps us safe from our wrong choices when we trust in Him.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card & Story Point coloring page (optional), 1 per child)

Two & three-year olds may color the optional Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool Christ Connection with their child this week.