



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

## 4s-5s 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.

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

**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.

### MAKE A CITY

**(Gray and Tan Construction Paper Strips, 4-5 per child, Blue Construction Paper, 1 sheet per child, Glue Sticks, and Crayons)**

Encourage children to glue construction paper strips on blue paper to make a city. Suggest that they use crayons to draw windows and doors on their houses and buildings. Talk about the area where you live and discuss if it is a city, town, or rural area. Name the closest city to you if you don't live in a city.

SAY • You worked hard to make your cities! Cities often have buildings that are close together and many people live there. Long ago, cities had walls around them to keep the people safe. We will hear about a city with walls today in our Bible story.

## 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 the Jews. Our story today is from the Book of Nehemiah. God used Nehemiah to help keep His people safe.

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 items 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 helped God's people fix the walls around their city.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

SAY • 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.

## 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*). Our key passage talks about how God will help us when we go through hard things. 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.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

(CG: 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.

## 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.

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

## BUILD WITH PLAY DOUGH

(**"Jerusalem's Walls" printable, 1 per group, Play Dough, 1 container per group**)

Give each preschooler a map and a small amount of play dough. Guide him or her to use play dough to form walls around the edge of the city. Review the story and ask questions about the story as children build.

SAY • Nehemiah helped God's people rebuild the walls of their city. It was a big job! God helped the people and they worked together to finish the job. The walls were very important because they kept the people safe. Without the walls, bad guys could easily walk into the city. The Bible tells us that if we trust in Jesus, He will protect us from our enemies too.

## 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.

SAY • Nehemiah led the people to rebuild Jerusalem's 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).

## REVIEW AND PRAYER

(Bible Story Picture, 1 per group)

Ask the following review questions:

Why were God's people in trouble? (*The walls around their city had been broken down.*)

Was Nehemiah happy or sad about this news? (*sad*)

What did the king send Nehemiah to do? (*rebuild the walls*)

Did the people stop building the wall when God's enemies told them to stop? (*no*)

Did the people rebuild the walls alone or did they have help? (*God helped the people and they worked together.*)

*Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything.*

SAY • Nehemiah led God's people to rebuild the walls around their city. The walls protected God's people from their enemies. Jesus protects us from bigger enemies than the ones Nehemiah faced. Jesus protects us from the punishment of our sin. He took the punishment for our sin when He died in our place and rose again.

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • Thank you, God, for sending Nehemiah to build the wall so your people would be protected. Thank you even more for sending Jesus to save us. Amen.

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and Crayons)

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.

