

**HEROES**

**OF THE**

**FAITH**

Ordinary Men and Women . . .  
Super Ordinary Power

**29**

**NEHEMIAH FEARLESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO  
REBUILD WALL OF JERUSALEM**

**HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012**

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# 29

## NEHEMIAH FEARLESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO REBUILD WALL OF JERUSALEM

### Memory Verse:

Then if My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek Me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14 NCV)

### Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Nehemiah was

#2 - Discover what faith led Nehemiah to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

### Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

### Scripture to Study:

Nehemiah 1-7



# 29

## NEHEMIAH FEARLESS IN HIS EFFORTS TO REBUILD WALL OF JERUSALEM

Nehemiah 1-7

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Nehemiah

**His Heroic Feat:** Turns to God

Turning to God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Let's review what you know about Babylon and Persia. Do you remember who King Nebuchadnezzar took from Jerusalem to Babylon? (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Mordecai and many others) Then, when the Persians defeated the Babylonians, King Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. Many of them returned. Do you remember two of the Jews who decided to stay in Persia? (Mordecai and Esther)

Nehemiah was another of the Jews who also decided to stay. Nehemiah also lived in the city of Susa and he worked in the palace. He tasted the king's wine to make sure it wasn't poisoned. This was a position of great trust.

One day, one of Nehemiah's brothers came from Judah with some other men. Nehemiah asked them about the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. They answered him, "Those who are left from the captivity are back in Judah, but they are in much trouble and are full of shame. The wall around Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned." (Nehemiah 1:3 NCV) This upset Nehemiah so much that he sat down and cried for days. Nehemiah was very sad. He decided not to eat for a while so that he could pray to God instead. Nehemiah worshipped God as he prayed, telling Him that He is the "God of heaven . . . the great God who is to be respected." (Nehemiah 1:5 NCV) Then Nehemiah confessed the sins of his people against God, but he didn't stop there. Nehemiah got personal. Nehemiah told God, "My father's family and I have sinned against you. We have been wicked toward you and have not obeyed the commands, rules, and laws you gave your servant Moses." (Nehemiah 1:7 NCV) Nehemiah knew that God was just in His punishment of the people of Israel, the Jews. But Nehemiah reminded God of His promise, "If you return to me and obey my commands, I will gather your people from the far ends of the earth. And I will bring them from captivity to where I have chosen to be worshiped." (Nehemiah 1:9 NCV) And then, Nehemiah asked God for something. You see, Nehemiah wanted to go to Jerusalem and he asked God for success. He asked that the king be kind to him.

Four months later Nehemiah was still sad over the condition of Jerusalem. As Nehemiah served the king, the king noticed his sadness. It was the first time Nehemiah had ever appeared before the king this way. The king asked, "Why does your face look sad even

though you are not sick? Your heart must be sad." (Nehemiah 2:2 NCV) Nehemiah explained the condition of Jerusalem. When the king asked what he wanted to do, Nehemiah asked to be sent to Jerusalem to rebuild it. God showed kindness to Nehemiah and the king agreed.

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem. He inspected the wall around the city, but he did it at night because no one knew why Nehemiah had come. The city wall had been broken down and the gates had been burned when Nebuchadnezzar attacked the city many years ago. For the people to live in the city safely, they needed a wall and gates that could be closed.

Nehemiah talked to the people. He told them how God had been kind to him and what the king said. Then the people answered, "'Let's start rebuilding.' So they began to work hard." (Nehemiah 2:18) Nehemiah divided them into forty groups. Each group worked on a section of the wall, usually the section closest to their homes.

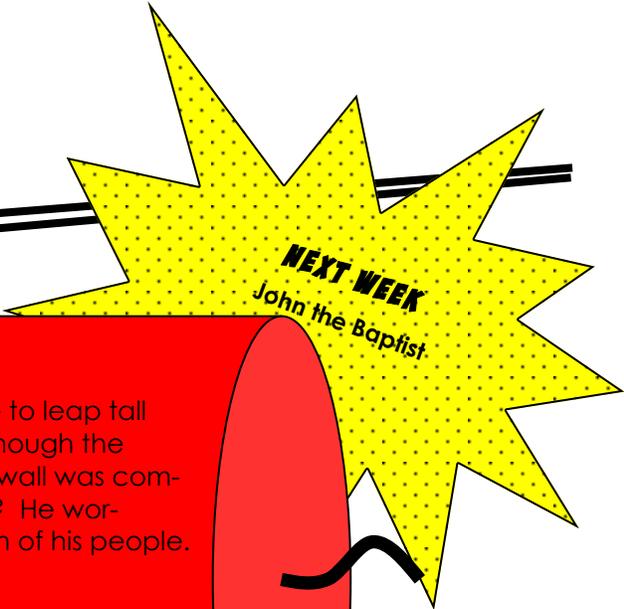
Nehemiah and the workers were insulted and threatened by people who didn't want to see the wall around Jerusalem rebuilt. They appointed guards, and when that didn't seem to be enough to calm the fears of the people of Israel, Nehemiah encouraged them not to be afraid. And "from that day on, half [the] people worked on the wall. The other half was ready with spears, shield, bows, and armor. . . Those who carried materials did their work with one hand and carried a weapon in the other. Each builder wore a sword at his side as he worked." (Nehemiah 4:16-18 NCV) They did this to be prepared in case of an attack.

The wall of Jerusalem was completed in only fifty-two days. (Eventually, the temple was also rebuilt.) When Israel's enemies saw it or heard about it "they were shamed. They then understood that the work had been done with the help of . . . God." (Nehemiah 6:15-16 NCV)

### ***YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!***

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Nehemiah turned to God. Even though the people of Jerusalem did a lot of work, that is not why the wall was completed in 52 days. Do you remember Nehemiah's prayer? He worshipped God and then confessed his own sin and the sin of his people. That is why God gave him success.

Our memory verse says, "Then if My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek Me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14 NCV) Those of us who have chosen to follow God are responsible for the condition of our countries. Will you pray a prayer like Nehemiah's so that God can use you mightily?



**NEXT WEEK**  
John the Baptist

# PRE-SCHOOL!

## LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

**Our hero:** Nehemiah

**His Heroic Feat:** Turns to God

Turning to God may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

In our last few lessons, we have talked about people who were carried away from their homes to a foreign land. We also talked about how two of them (Esther and Mordecai) helped save their people.

Nehemiah is the hero of this lesson. Nehemiah worked for the king. He tasted the king's wine to make sure it wasn't poisoned. The king trusted Nehemiah.

One day, one of Nehemiah's brothers came from Judah with some other men. Nehemiah asked them about the city of Jerusalem and the Jewish people. They told him it was a dangerous place, without a wall for protection. This upset Nehemiah so much that he sat down and cried. Nehemiah was very sad. He decided not to eat for a while so that he could pray to God instead. Nehemiah worshipped God. Then Nehemiah confessed the sins of his people against God, but he didn't stop there. Nehemiah got personal. Nehemiah told God, "My father's family and I have sinned against you. We have been wicked toward you and have not obeyed the commands, rules, and laws you gave your servant Moses." (Nehemiah 1:7 NCV) And then, Nehemiah asked God for something. You see, Nehemiah wanted to go to Jerusalem and he asked God for success. He asked that the king be kind to him. God showed kindness to Nehemiah and the king agreed to let him go.

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem. He inspected the wall around the city. Then Nehemiah talked to the people. He told them how God had been kind to him and what the king said. Then the people answered, "'Let's start rebuilding.'" So they began to work hard." (Nehemiah 2:18) Nehemiah divided them into forty groups. Each group worked on a section of the wall, usually the section closest to their homes. They finished the wall of Jerusalem in only fifty-two days. Eventually, they also rebuilt the temple where they would worship God.

# ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a mobile or banner with construction paper. On the first page write, "Then if My people, who are called by My name." On the second, numbered 1-4, write, "will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek Me and stop their evil ways." Finish the verse on the last page. Be sure to include the Scripture reference. Connect the pages with tape, ribbon, cord, etc.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "The Mission," "Hear Our Praises," "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations," Michael Card's "Heal Our Land," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Bring building blocks. Encourage your students to build the kind of wall that would have surrounded Jerusalem. Be sure to include the gates.
- Provide a map of Jerusalem that includes the wall. Talk about how amazing it was back then, with a sword in one hand, to finish rebuilding the city wall in 52 days.
- **For more training:** Read the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6:5-14 and Nehemiah's prayer in Nehemiah 1:4-11. Compare and contrast the two, talking about the different parts of each prayer.
- **For more training:** Start a discussion about the memory verse (2 Chronicles 7:14). Read it in context at the dedication of the temple of God that Solomon built. Talk about our responsibility as believers to be right before God. Talk about the consequences of our sin on the country we live in. Talk about the result of repentance as well.

Then if My people,  
who are called by My name,  
will humble themselves,  
if they will pray and seek Me  
and stop their evil ways,  
I will hear them from heaven.

I will forgive their sin,  
and I will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

**HEROES**

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Super Ordinary Power

# ***HERO IN TRAINING***

Nehemiah Fearless in His Efforts to Rebuild  
Wall of Jerusalem

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# HERO TRAINING!

**Scripture:** Nehemiah 1-7

**Memory verse:**

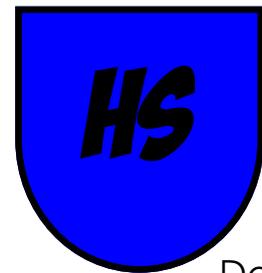
Then if My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves, if they will pray and seek Me and stop their evil ways, I will hear them from heaven. I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14 NCV)

**Our Hero:** \_\_\_\_\_

What did our hero do that was so heroic? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? \_\_\_\_\_



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have the power? \_\_\_\_\_

Read Nehemiah 1:4-11. What was Nehemiah's response to the condition of Jerusalem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



WORD

SEARCH!

B K M C G N A L F L I M E  
O I O L L A W R I A P E R  
G N R S I M A D F S C L A  
O G D N K A L N T P L A B  
T S E H T H L N Y L U S E  
N W C W N D C O T E N U D  
O I E H E S O N W H U R N  
I N I K H N M X O E X E S  
S E R I E C P D D N M J G  
S T C E M A L M A O D R O  
I A P H I H E A Y Y E O N  
M S S S A N T P S R Y F N  
R T R E H R E A S E I D E  
E E T N L V D C T V R A H  
P R S U P T F T O E P S C

- Persia
- Nehemiah
- king's wine taster
- sad for Jerusalem
- permission to go
- repair wall
- everyone helps
- wall completed
- fifty-two days

# HIDDEN MESSAGE!

## Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?  
Decipher the code below and write your answers in the spaces below.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

I H E N I F M Y P E O P L E ,  
20 8 5 14 9 6 13 25 16 5 15 16 12 5

W H O A R E C A L L E D B Y M Y N A M E ,  
23 8 15 1 18 5 3 1 12 12 5 4 2 25 13 25 14 1 13 5

W I L L H U M B L E I H E M S E L V E S ,  
23 9 12 12 8 21 13 2 12 5 20 8 5 13 19 5 12 22 5 19

I F I H E Y W I L L P R A Y A N D S E E K M E  
9 6 20 8 5 25 23 9 12 12 16 18 1 25 1 14 4 19 5 5 11 13 5

A N D S I O P I H E I R E V I L W A Y S ,  
1 14 4 19 20 15 16 20 8 5 9 18 5 22 9 12 23 1 25 19

I W I L L H E A R I H E M F R O M H E A V E N .  
9 23 9 12 12 8 5 1 18 20 8 5 13 6 18 15 13 8 5 1 22 5 14

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9 23 9 12 12 6 15 18 7 9 22 5 20 8 5 9 18 19 9 14

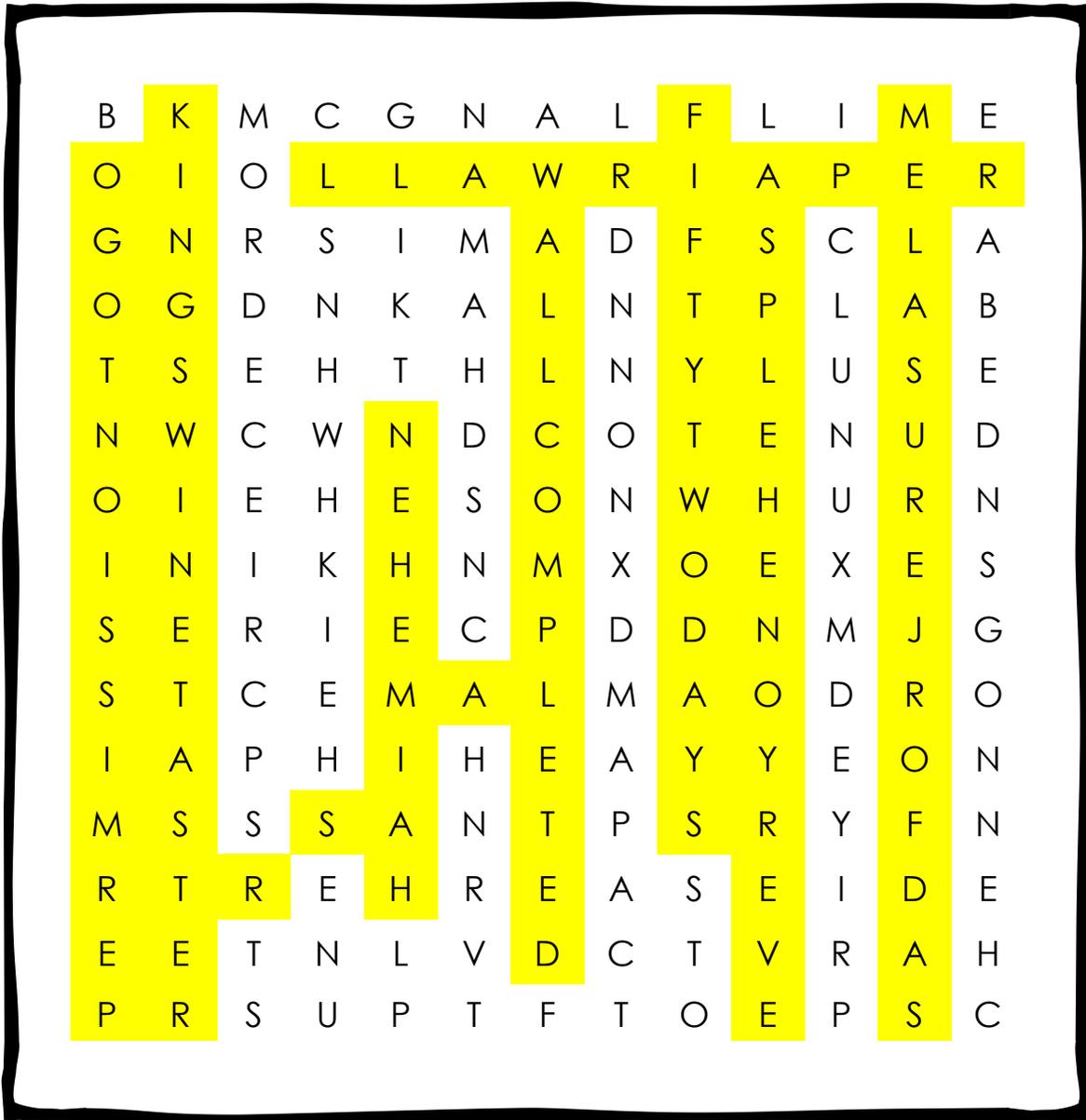
A N D I W I L L H E A L I H E I R L A N D .  
1 14 4 9 23 9 12 12 9 5 1 12 20 8 5 9 18 12 1 14 4

2 C H R O N I C L E S Z : 1 4  
B 3 8 18 15 14 9 3 12 5 19 G A D

# WORD

# SEARCH!

Answer Page



- Persia
- Nehemiah
- king's wine taster
- sad for Jerusalem
- permission to go
- repair wall
- everyone helps
- wall completed
- fifty-two days